

**Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Assembly  
Approved Minutes of Assembly, Saturday, February 24 2018  
First Presbyterian Church, Bainbridge NY**

Pre-meeting worship was led by George Budine, RE/Moderator. The message was given by Rev. Dr. Charles Colton who is pulpit supply at Conklin Presbyterian. The message was based on Philippians 1:19-30. An offering of \$508.00 was collected which will be split between One Great Hour of Sharing and Bainbridge local food missions.

Moderator **George Budine** (Nichols) called the meeting to order with prayer at 9:40 a.m.

First time commissioners Doug Jones RE Binghamton United, Judy Beers RE Masonville, Judy Ives RE East Guilford, Rachel Helgeson TE Northminster Endwell, Ruth Dibble RE Hobart, Libby Cudmore RE Oneonta First were introduced. Adam Demetros, Candidate from Lehigh Presbytery doing pulpit supply in Nineveh was introduced as a guest.

A quorum was attested to and declared – 23 churches were represented by Ruling Elder Commissioners, 20 Ministers, 1 Corresponding Members, 4 Commissioned Lay Pastors, 5 Ruling Elders with vote due to office and 10 Office staff and visitors. The Roll was taken by computers in the registration area of the Narthex for a total enrolled attendance of 62.

**Roll:**

CHURCH	Feb 24, 2018	Nov 18, 2017	Sept 16, 2017	May 20,2017	March 3, 2017
Afton	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves			Lynn Reeves
Andes	Jonathan Andrews	Joi Brundege			
Bainbridge	Mary Whitmore	Paula Epply	Cheryl Nages	Paula Epply	Excused
Binghamton, Immanuel					
Binghamton, John Hus					
Binghamton, Ross Mem'l					
Binghamton, United	Doug Jones	Cynthia Burger	Suzanne Northrop	Chris Burger	Cynthia Burger
Bovina Center					
Cincinnati					
Conklin	Jack Bell	Jack Bell			Beth Lewis
Cortland, United	Darlene Latten	Carol Foster		Darlene Latten	Thomas Corey
Cortlandville, Christ	Kathleen Severtsen	Dorothy Thomas	Sherry Dans	Nancy Wheatley	Jenny Wissink
Charlotte Valley	Ally Fiske	Excused	Nancy E Banker	Excused	Roberta Barringer
Cabin Hill					
De Lancey					
Delhi First	Kathleen Sullivan	Joseph Maxwell	Susan Little	Beatrice Mooney	Excused
Delhi United Ministry		Otto Frederick Onasch		Otto Frederick Onasch	Otto Frederick Onasch
West Delhi					Steven Fleming
Deposit	Alice Martin	Alice Martin	Alice Martin	Michael Armstrong	Alice Martin
Dryden	Chuck Uttech	Chuck Uttech		David Smith	David Smith
East Guilford	Judy Ives	Janet Lafayette		Sharon Havens	Janet Lafayette
Endicott Union	Jane Park	Peggy Williams	Jane Park	Peggy Williams	
Endwell Northminster	Donna Cunningham	Juni Brooks	Kathy Close	Diana Nogaret	Juni Brooks
Garrattsville			Joan Loeffler		
Gilbertsville		Roger Halbert	Dean VeenHoff		Don Osborne
Hamden	Karen Marshfield	Excused	Excused	Karen Marshfield	Karen A. Marshfield
Hancock					
Hobart	Ruth Dibble				

Johnson City		Glenna Coutts	Glenna Coutts		Glenna Coutts
Laurens					
Lordville					
Marathon					
Margaretville/ New Kingston					
Masonville	Judith Beers	Jo Ann Aymar	Wendy Caldiero	Jo Ann Aymar	Excused
Nichols			Andrea Seeley	Andrea Seeley	Excused
Nineveh		Glenn White		Barbara Dillingham	Barbara Dillingham
Oneonta First	Libby Cudmore	Neal Miller	Neal Miller		Ron Wood
Oneonta First United	Linda Allen				Linda Allen
Otego					
Owego	Stuart Rogers	Leslie Anne King	Oliver, Joan	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King
Smithville Flats	Diane Merrill	Joan Barker		Diane Merrill	
Stamford	Fred Doyle		Dave Betz		
Unadilla		John Truscott	Louise Lesh		David Johnson
Walton	Susan Wildenstein	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski
Valley United		Dale Barber			Jim Parks
Windsor					
Worcester		Judy McAdams			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>

Status	CLERGY	Feb 24, 2018	Nov 18, 2017	Sept 16, 2017	May 20, 2017	March 3, 2017
HR	Amalfitano, Frank	Deceased 1/7/2018				
HR	Arnold, Earl	Present		Present		
HR	Beattie, Douglas G					
HR	Bjorkman, Leonard	Present			Present	
CLP	Budine, George	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
CLP	Carruth, George	Present	Present			Present
	Chastain, Kimberly	Excused	Present		Present	Present
CLP	Davis, Shirley	In-transit				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	Present
HR	Francis, Dale		transferred		Present	Present
EPIS	Hamilton, Paul					Present
UCC	Hansen, Janet Adair	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Hatch, Douglas	Present	Present	Present		Present
	Heckman, Lisa S.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
At-large	Heinle, Robert H	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Excused
	Hooker, Christopher	-	In transit	Excused	Excused	
	Hooker, Sarah	Transferred	In transit	Excused	Excused	
	Horne, Douglas A		Present		Present	
	Jensen, Julie	Transferred	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Johnson, David H.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Co-Clerk	Kindig, Rebecca	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	King, Marie					
	Rosso (Knoell), Sharan	Present	Excused		Present	Excused
	Kwon, Peter					
HR	Mahler, John					
Clerk	Martin, James F	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present
Valid min	Mattice, Taryn B		Present			

	Mays, Lisa Ruth	Present	Excused	Present	Excused	Present
HR	Miller, Dean					
	Montfort, Mark	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
	More, H Adelbert III	Excused		Excused	Excused	
CLP	Muller, Marsha	Present	Present	Present		
	Outterson-Murphy, Bobby	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
	Peak, Robert T	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Piedmonte, Mark	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
HR	Presby, Allen L					
	Raube, Patricia	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Excused
HR	Renton, Barbara A	Excused		Present	Present	Excused
HR	Robinson, David C					
	Schindler – see Vittorio					
At-large	Schwartz, Barbara	Excused	Excused		Present	Excused
	Shepard, Lynn	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Suggs, Arthur M					
HR	Thomas, Ronald					
ABC	Vance, Tom	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
	Vittorio Schindler, Garrett	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
	Vittorio Schindler, Marena	Present		Present	Excused	Present
	Walton-Leavitt, Cynthia	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	Wemple Jr, Delbert					
HR	Wilson, Carol	Transferred		Present		Present
	Wolff, Patty	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
<b>Total</b>		<b>19+4Clp</b>	<b>21+3Clp</b>	<b>20+3Clp</b>	<b>22+1Clp</b>	<b>21+3Clp</b>

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

<b>ELDER (“equalized”)</b>	<b>Feb 24, 2018</b>	<b>Nov 18, 2017</b>	<b>Sept 16, 2017</b>	<b>May 20, 2017</b>	<b>March 3, 2017</b>
Glenna Coutts-Cabinet VM	Present				
Joanne Gray - Cabinet	Present				
Scott Kindig – Cabinet	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Neal Miller – Cabinet	Off	See church	See church		
Marsha Muller -- COM co-chair	See CLP	See CLP	See CLP	Present	Present
Joan Oliver -- Cabinet	Present	Present	See Church	Present	Present
Wildenstein, Judith – Cabinet	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>

**Corresponding Members:** 1 Professor Charles Colton (Baptist, Davis College)

**Staff, Visitors, & Host church volunteers:** Chris Burger, PSV Co-Stated Clerk, Christine Rogalski PSV Office Admin, Cynthia Burger Recording Clerk pro tem, Kathryn Carvin Masonville, Elaine Sickler Charlotte Valley, JoAnn Aymar Masonville, Joan Wise Hostetter Owego & EPT, Adam Demetros Candidate & Nineveh, Junietta Brooks Northminster & EPT, Peg Corwin Endicott & EPT.

#### Total Tally of Presbytery Commissioners

Teaching Elders Present:	19	Churches Represented by a Ruling Elder:	23
Corresponding Members (Teaching Elders):	1	Corresponding Member (Ruling Elder):	0
Total Teaching Elders:	20	Commissioned Lay Pastors Present:	4
Teaching Elders Excused:	7	Other Voting Ruling Elders Present:	5
Teaching Elders Absent w/o Excuse:	4	Total Ruling Elders Present:	32
APA Members:	0	Commissioned Lay Pastors absent w/o excuse:	0
Staff, Visitors, Host Church Volunteers:	10	Commissioned Lay Pastors Excused:	0
		Churches Requesting Excuse:	0
<b>Total Enrolled Attendance:</b>	<b>62</b>	Churches Not Represented:	24

#### Introduction of New Business, Approval of the Docket

Moderator Robert Peak declared that Co-Stated Clerk Chris Burger was the parliamentarian for the day. After a greeting and announcement of arrangements by Host, 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Bainbridge, Clerk of Session Evelyn Baker, the Docket [#01] was **APPROVED** with no new business. A Consent Agenda including the receiving of Stated Clerk Report [#04], Cabinet Report [#05], and the Treasurer and Financial reports [#06], [#06a], [#06b], was **APPROVED**. Minutes of November 18, 2017 at Cincinnatus [#03]. were **APPROVED** (published in 20017 Assembly minutes) United Ministry of Delhi's new bylaws [#04a], were **APPROVED**.

**Committee on Nominations** [#08]-- Garrett Schindler (Bovina) gave the report verbally and it was displayed on the screen and after opportunity for nominations from the floor, Presbytery **ELECTED**:  
Glenna Coutts RE, as Vice Moderator  
Mark Piedmonte TE, as member of Cabinet, class of 2020  
Pat Raube TE, as member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, class of 2019  
(in the report below, RE = Ruling Elder, TE = Teaching Elder or Minister of the Word)

### **Installation of Moderator and Vice-Moderator**

Current Moderator, George Budine RE, then installed Glenna Coutts RE as Vice Moderator and Robert Peak TE as Moderator for this year using the service from the Book of Occasional Services.

### **Judicial Commission Report** [#12]

Co-Stated Clerk Becky Kindig TE read the report verbatim from the Permanent Judicial Commission in the Matter of the Statement of Charges Against Rev. H. Adelbert More, III.

The report is immediately below -

*SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY PRESBYTERY*

*PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION*

***In the Matter of the Statement of Charges Against***

*Rev. H. Adelbert More, III,*

*Respondent*

*REBUKE WITH*

*TEMPORARY*

*EXCLUSION AND*

*SUPERVISED*

*REHABILITATION*

TO: REV. H. ADELBERT MORE, III:

WHEREAS, you, Rev. H. Adelbert More, III have, by formal oral admission have been found guilty of the following offenses:

1. Failing to attend any meeting of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley since May 3, 2011 and failing to ask for excusal from the majority thereof, all in violation of Book of Order (BOO) W-4.4003 (e) (Failing to be governed by Church polity);
2. Performing the marriage of two men in contravention of Church Polity at the time (BOO W-4.4003 (e)).
3. During the period from 2013 to 2015, you provided pastoral services to the South Kortright Community Church in violation of the policies and practices of the Presbytery (BOO W-4003(e)).
4. You labored outside of the bounds of the Presbytery by performing a wedding without first seeking permission from the Presbytery (BOO W-4.4003(e)). and

5. During a worship service at Hobart Presbyterian Church you publicly questioned every member on personal illnesses or problems (BOO W-4.4003(g) and W-4-4003(h)).

WHEREAS, by such offenses you have acted contrary to the Scriptures and/or the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA); and

WHEREAS, on January 31, 2018, a Censure Hearing was duly held before the Commission, at which hearing a quorum of the members thereof were present; and

UPON hearing the recommendations of the Ad Hoc Prosecuting Committee with respect to the degree of discipline to be imposed, and

UPON hearing Rev. David N. Johnson, counsel for respondent in mitigation (Respondent Rev. H. Adelbert More having failed to appear at the time and place of the hearing, although due notice thereof was timely provided to him), and

Due Deliberation having been had by the Commission

NOW THEREFORE, the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Susquehanna Presbytery in the name of the authority of the Presbyterian Church (USA) expresses its condemnation of these offenses, rebukes you, temporarily suspends you from the exercise of ordered ministry and orders you to complete a program of supervised rehabilitation, as described below:

1. Term. The period of suspension shall be for a minimum term of one year, commencing as of the date of service of this Rebuke upon the respondent. During such period of suspension, respondent shall diligently complete a program of supervised rehabilitation under the terms and conditions set forth herein.
2. Supervising Authority. All supervision and compliance monitoring shall be conducted by the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley. It shall be charged with the monitoring of compliance with the terms set forth below, and to report to the Presbytery, or its designee, any violations by you of the terms herein contained. It shall render a final report to the Presbytery at the end of the one year term, at which time the Presbytery, or its designee may (a) terminate the temporary exclusion and supervised rehabilitation; (b) continue the temporary exclusion and supervised rehabilitation on terms and conditions then appropriate in its discretion, or (c) impose such other, further and different discipline as authorized by the provisions of Chapter XII of the BOO.
3. Express Terms and Conditions. During the term of the supervision, in addition to general obedience and compliance with all of the requirements of the BOO pertaining to the conduct and performance of a teaching elder, you shall be expected to:
  - a. Attend all regular meetings of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley unless previously excused there from by the Moderator for good cause shown;
  - b. Become active in the work of the Presbytery, and develop a support network of colleagues or other mentors so as to live demonstrating proper conduct and character consistent with the requirements of Presbyterian polity as defined in the BOO and also consistent with the terms of the exclusion which prohibit the exercise of the functions of ordered ministry and other formal participation in governance as set forth in subsections e. and f. below;
  - c. Submit to an alcohol and substance abuse evaluation by a licensed professional whose credentials shall have been approved in advance by the Committee on Ministry. The written report of such professional shall be furnished to the Committee on Ministry and any and all treatment recommendations therein contained shall become a part of the requirements of the rehabilitation;
  - d. Submit to a psychological evaluation by a licensed professional whose credentials shall have been approved in advance by the Committee on Ministry. The written report of such professional shall be furnished to the Committee on Ministry and any and all treatment recommendations therein contained shall become a part of the requirements of the rehabilitation;
  - e. During the term of the temporary exclusion, you shall refrain from the exercise of any function of ordered ministry;

f. During the period of temporary exclusion, you shall refrain from participating and voting in meetings and from holding or exercising any office, except with the prior written consent of the Committee on Ministry.

This Rebuke constitutes the prayerfully considered determination of the Permanent Judicial Commission and shall be filed with the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley and read on the floor of the next meeting of the Presbytery, and a copy thereof delivered to the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery.

Respondent has the right to appeal from all or any part of this Rebuke all according to the procedures therefore set forth in the BOO.

Dated: February 5, 2018.

For the Commission,

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Russell E. Ruthig, Clerk

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Rev. Kimberly Chastain, Moderator

-end report-

No discussion of the decision was had although a few clarifying questions were asked and answered.

A stretch break was had at 10:30 and we reconvened at 10:45

**Cabinet Report [#05]:**

The Cabinet brought forward an action item, Overture 006 On Directing the Board of Pensions and the Foundation to Divestment from Fossil Fuel [#05a]. The body **APPROVED to concur** with three abstentions.

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry [#09]:**

Chair Mark Piedmonte, TE brought forward a motion for PSV to receive Adam DeMetros as a Candidate for Ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament upon release from his home Presbytery, Lehigh where he is currently under care. He has moved to this Presbytery where his fiancé is studying and has joined Owego Presbyterian Church. Mark stated that we would be voting to receive him “as is” trusting in the work already done by Lehigh Presbytery. **The motion was APPROVED.**

**Committee on Ministry [#07]:**

Co-chair Marsha Mueller RE gave the report. She highlighted the Small Church Gathering event that will be held on March 10 at Conklin Presbyterian Church. We also were introduced to our newest TE in the Presbytery, Rev. Rachel Helgeson serving at Northminster in Endwell.

**New/Unfinished Business:**

Central New York Presbyteries Spring Gathering (CNY) [#10]. Announced by Becky Kindig, TE. Cayuga-Syracuse, Northern NY, Utica, and Susquehanna Valley have continued to be in discussions on how to partner together. Hearing from many in the presbyteries that traveling to continuing education events is very hard since many churches don't have a continuing education budget that can afford air fare, they wanted to bring someone to the Central New York area. They have created a Spring Gathering inviting PCUSA Co-Moderator Jan Edmiston as the key note speaker to an event in Syracuse April 12-14. The event will also have a COM gathering, a CNY leadership track, and combine with the Synod's Stated Clerk's gathering.

Trip to Western Wollega Bethel Synod (WWBS), Ethiopia [#11]. Announced by Peg Corbin, RE, that a trip was being planned to our partners in Ethiopia in February of 2019.

We heard that the installation commission was formed for Rev. Rachel Helgelson's installation at Northminster. It will be March 18, 2018 at 5:30. Commission members are Garrett Schindler, TE, Marena Vittorio-Schindler, TE, Robert Peak, TE, Young Hui Amend, RE, Marsha Mueller, RE, Bill Donohue, RE, and Dorothy Thomas, RE.

Mission Center Update – Given by David Johnson TE and Finance Chair, The mission center had frozen pipes in early January and the total repair cost for water damage to the building was \$45,000, \$35,000 was covered by insurance. Thanks given to Stan Rogalski for his work doing the repairs and to Christine Rogalski for coordinating them.

After sharing of Good News from a dozen churches and events around the Presbytery, Christine Rogalski asked people to please fill out the Presbytery Assembly Survey on line.

Presbytery **adjourned** with prayer led by the Moderator Robert Peak at 11:25

The next Presbytery Assembly will be held at the Valley United Church in combination with the Lackawanna Presbytery on Saturday May 5, 2018.

Notes recorded by Cynthia Burger, recording clerk, pro tem.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Rev. Rebecca Kindig, Co-Stated Clerk

Minutes approved 9/29/2018, Attested by \_\_\_\_\_  
Rebecca M. Kindig, Co-Stated Clerk