

**Minutes in Seconds**  
**Digest of Actions Taken at the Stated Meeting**  
**of The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Gilbertsville NY Saturday November 19, 2016**

Presbytery Moderator **Patty Wolff** (East Guilford and Central Delaware Trinity) called the business meeting to order with prayer at 9:30 am. A quorum was present – 19 churches were represented by Ruling Elder Commissioners, 21 Teaching Elders, 1 Commissioned Lay Pastor, 4 Ruling Elders with vote due to office and 20 visitors and office staff. First time commissioners were introduced. The total enrolled attendance was 65.

Host pastor **Mark Piedmonte**(Gilbertsville) gave a welcome and directions about the building, facilities, wifi password and mealtime.

**Worship** was led by those who attended the **Youth Triennium** in Indiana this summer. An offering of \$564 was divided between the Christmas Joy Offering and the Butternut Valley Food Pantry.

The Agenda and Consent Agenda were approved with an additional written report from Cabinet. Approval of the **Consent Agenda** included Treasurer and Financial Reports including post-audit reports from 2014 and 2015, Pastors minimum compensation for 2017, revised Personnel Policy, minutes of the last meeting and a written Synod Commissioner's report.

**Christian Nurture Team: Rebecca Kindig**(United, Binghamton) presented the Children and Youth Protection Policy which was **approved**.

**Finance sub-committee Dave Johnson**(Cortland UP) gave the report. A motion was **approved** to transfer \$40,000 from the Revolving Loan Fund to the Pastoral Care Fund. Dave reviewed the proposed **2017 Budget** which was **approved**.

A motion was seconded and **approved** to proceed with an agreement for use of the 12 Whitney Way building (former Presbytery Mission Center) by Operation Merry Christmas if the way is clear regarding insurance and use as a non-profit organization. There will be a clause for vacating the building if a buyer for the building is found.

**Committee on Ministry** co-chair **Bea Mooney**(Delhi, First) reported.

A commission to install **Rebecca Kindig** as Associate Pastor on Nov. 20, 2016 was **approved**. Terms of Call from **United Ministry of Delhi** for **Bobby Outterson-Murphy** to serve as Pastor, beginning December 7, 2016 were **approved**.

Bobby read his statement of faith and was examined for ordination by questions from the body.

Presbytery **approved** his examination and moved that Boston Presbytery **ordain him on our behalf** tomorrow, November 20, 2016.

A commission to install Bobby Outterson-Murphy at United Ministry on January 29 was **approved**. Other actions of the committee were highlighted from the written report.

After a stretch break, **Vice-Moderator George Budine** shared perspectives on "What makes a congregation Vital" and continued to provide demonstrable examples of how we appear when visitors or newcomers come to our congregations in worship.

**Committee on Nominations -- Cynthia Walton Leavitt**(Oneonta First United) gave the report along with other information and after opportunity for nominations from the floor, Presbytery elected:

- **Lisa Heckman** (TE, Owego) **Treasurer** Class of 2017
- **Patty Wolff** (TE, E. Guilford & Central Delaware) **Cabinet Chair** Class of 2017
- **George Budine** (CRE, Nichols) **Presbytery Moderator** Class of 2017
- **Robert Peak** (TE, Johnson City) **Presbytery Vice-Moderator** Class of 2017
- **Pat Raube** (TE, Endicott) **Co-chair of the Committee on Ministry** Class of 2017
- **Mark Piedmonte** (TE, Gilbertsville) **Chair, Committee on Preparation** Class of 2017

- **Deb Fleming** (CRE, Cabin Hill) **Chair, Committee on Lay Preaching** Class of 2017
- **Taryn Mattice** (TE, Protestant Ministry, Cornell ) **Chair, Committee on Representation** 2017
- **Barbara Renton** (TE, HR) **Presbytery Cabinet** Class of 2017
- **Joan Oliver** (RE, Owego) **Presbytery Cabinet** Class of 2019 (change of class year)
- **Judy Wildenstein** (RE, Walton) **Presbytery Cabinet** Class of 2019
- **Bill Donahue** (RE, United, Binghamton) **Committee on Ministry** Class of 2019
- **Lynn Shepard** (TE, Worcester) **Committee on Ministry** Class of 2019
- **Scott Kindig** (RE, Endicott) **Committee on Preparation** Class of 2018 (change of class year)
- **Karen Marshfield** (RE, Hamden) **Committee on Lay Preaching** Class of 2017
- **Nola Henry** (RE, Laurens) **Committee on Lay Preaching** Class of 2019
- **Barbara Schwartz** (TE, At-Large) **Permanent Judicial Commission** Class of 2017

Under New Business, Presbytery also elected

- **Garrett Schindler** (TE, Bovina) **Committee on Nominations** Class of 2019, and to serve as chair of the committee in 2017

**Carol Wilson** (Charlotte Valley) reported for the Ethiopian Partnership Ministry Team (**EPMT**), reflecting on her time teaching in Ethiopia and the situation of fighting and killing. A sheet of excerpts from stories from the life of Ethiopian students was distributed as a suggestion for continuing prayer for these students and the situation there. Carol led the Presbytery in prayer. Juni Brooks spoke briefly about the "Books for BESS" program, asking for \$25 donations to provide books for the High School we help sponsor.

The agenda was extended 15 minutes to adjourn at 12:30 to accommodate the remainder of the reports

**Stated Clerk** Jim Martin reported and by **motion Presbytery approved** the sale of the garage property of the Hobart Church (the updated survey was displayed) for \$2800 to neighbors Dorothy and William Wetmore who have been renting it for 20 years. Presbytery also **approved the Reading of Session records** for 34 churches and granted extensions to 3 churches whose records are being updated or reconstructed. The list of names from the prior Necrology was updated and the clerk reported that the Investigating Committee appointed earlier this year has decided to file charges (the details remain confidential while the Permanent Judicial Commission convenes and hears the case).

**Session Annual Statistical reports** may be started by opening the link at [oga.pcusa.org/stats](http://oga.pcusa.org/stats) beginning December 2, 2016. This is the required annual report by clerks. The item known as the "Clerk's Annual Questionnaire" is not the required annual report, but is an optional survey.

**Judy Wildenstein** (Walton) gave the report for Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery (PWP). PWP has money for mission projects to your church - described on the sheet titled "Great News!" Judy shared that PWP recently sent gifts to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (PDA) and to the "Days for Girls" project in Unadilla to help provide sanitary supplies for girls in Third World Countries.

Over a dozen announcements and **Sharing of Good News** items were given, and Presbytery gathered for prayer around **Sarah Hooker** (Delhi First) who will be leaving at the end of December 2016 to as husband **Chris Hooker** as takes a new position in Atlanta.

Presbytery adjourned with prayer before the meal at 12:30

**The next Stated Assembly is at First Presbyterian Church, Oneonta on Saturday, March 18, 2017.**