

**Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Assembly
Minutes of Saturday March 18, 2017
First Presbyterian Church, Oneonta, NY**

Worship began at 9:10 a.m. was led by **Kimberly Chastain, Patty Wolff** and Moderator-Elect **George Budine** who preached a sermon "Touching Jesus" using Luke 8:40-48. An offering of \$591 was divided between the One Great Hour of Sharing and the Oneonta School Backpack Ministry. Worship also included the installation of **George Budine** as **Moderator** and **Robert Peak** as **Vice-Moderator**.

Presbytery Moderator **George Budine**(RE, Nichols) called the business meeting to order with prayer at 9:43 am and a thank you to outgoing Moderator **Patty Wolff**(TE,East Guilford and Central Delaware Trinity). A quorum was present – 22 churches were represented by Ruling Elder Commissioners, 21 Teaching Elders, 3 Commissioned Lay Pastors, 4 Ruling Elders with vote due to office, 3 corresponding members and 6 visitors and office staff. The total enrolled attendance was 59.

First time commissioners were introduced: **Roberta(Bert) Barringer**(Charlotte Valley), **Jim Parks**(Valley United), **Julie Jensen** (Interim Pastor, Nineveh), **Don Osborne**(Gilbertsville), **Ron Wood**(Oneonta First). Missionaries **Gwen & John Haspels**(Presbytery of Southern Kansas) were welcomed, given privilege of the floor and seated as corresponding members. Rev. **Jim Hicks** (Interim, Dryden) a member of Geneva Presbytery was present as a corresponding member.

Host Pastor Mark Montfort gave a welcome,

The Roll was taken by computers at the rear of the sanctuary for a total enrolled attendance of .

Roll:

CHURCH	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016	May 21, 2016	Feb 13, 2016
Afton	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves
Andes				Joi Brundage	
Bainbridge	Excused	Paula Epply	Cheryl Nages	Excused	Cheryl Nages
Binghamton, Immanuel			Catherine Bocinski		
Binghamton, John Hus					
Binghamton, Ross Mem'l					
Binghamton, United	Cynthia Burger	Marilyn Myers	Cynthia Burger	Ann Garcia	Cynthia Burger
Bovina Center					
Cincinnatus					Fred Downs
Conklin	Beth Lewis	Doug Moore	Doug Moore		
Cortland, United	Thomas Corey	Russell Ruthig	Carol Foster	Scott Gay	Darlene Latten
Cortlandville, Christ	Jenny Wissink		Dot Thomas	Excused	Nancy Wheatley
Charlotte Valley	Roberta Barringer	Nancy E Banker	Joan Burger	Nancy E. Banker	
Cabin Hill					
De Lancey					
Delhi First	Excused	Thomas Phillion	Bea Mooney	Renee Maxwell	
Delhi United Ministry	Otto Frederick Onasch	Fred Onasch		Fred Onasch	excused
West Delhi	Steven Fleming				

CHURCH	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016	May 21, 2016	Feb 13, 2016
Deposit	Alice Martin	Alice Martin	Alice Martin	Alice Martin	Alice Martin
Dryden	David Smith		John Scott		Sandy Dumond
East Guilford	Janet Lafayette	April Geiger	Sharon Havens	Sharon Havens	
Endicott Union			Peg Corwin	Jane Park	
Endwell Northminster	Juni Brooks	Junietta Brooks	Suzanne Erle	excused	Donna Cunningham
Garrattsville		Joan Loeffler	Joan Loeffler	Joan Loeffler	
Gilbertsville	Don Osborne	Susan Pochy	Winona Slaughter	Shirley Keene	Winona Slaughter
Hamden	Karen A. Marshfield	Karen Marshfield	Karen Marshfield	Karen Marshfield	Wayne Marshfield
Hancock					
Hobart		William Coleman			
Johnson City	Glenna Coutts			Glenna Coutts	Glenna Coutts
Laurens				Excused	
Lordville			Excused		
Marathon					
Margaretville/ New Kingston					
Masonville	Excused	Jo Ann Aymar	Kathryn Carvin	Excused	Wendy Caldiero
Nichols	Excused	Excused	Andrea Seeley	Excused	excused
Nineveh	Barbara Dillingham		Barbara Dillingham	Barbara Dillingham	
Oneonta First	Ron Wood	Shirley Fioravanti	Carolyn Palm	Libby Cudmore	Shirley Fioravanti
Oneonta First United	Linda Allen				Rebecca LaBarr
Otego					
Owego	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King
Smithville Flats			Ruby Fiene	Diane Merrill	Diane Merrill
Stamford				Becky Smith	excused
Unadilla	David Johnson		Louise Lesh	Chris Bomba	Brian Danforth
Walton	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Marsha Muller
Valley United	Jim Parks		Dale Barber	Dale Barber	
Windsor					
Worcester			Judith McAdams		
TOTAL	22	19	27	22	19

Status	CLERGY	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016	May 21, 2016	Feb 13, 2016
HR	Amalfitano, Frank					
HR	Beattie, Douglas G					
HR	Bjorkman, Leonard			Present	Present	
CLP	Budine, George	Present	Present		Present	Present
CLP	Carruth, George	Present		Present		Present
	Chastain, Kimberly	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
CLP	Davis, Shirley	Excused		Excused	Present	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	Excused	Present
HR	Francis, Dale	Present	Present	Present		
EPIS	Hamilton, Paul	Present		Present	Present	Present
UCC	Hansen, Janet Adair	Present	Excused	Present	Excused	Present
	Hatch, Douglas	Present	Present			Present

Status	CLERGY	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016	May 21, 2016	Feb 13, 2016
	Heckman, Lisa S.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
at large	Heinle, Robert H	Excused	Excused	Present		Present
	Hooker, Christopher		Excused	Present	Present	Excused
	Hooker, Sarah		Present	Present	Excused	Present
	Horne, Douglas A		Present		Excused	Present
	Jensen, Julie	Present				
	Johnson, David H.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Kindig, Rebecca	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	King, Marie					
	Rosso (Knoell), Sharan	Excused	Present		Present	Excused
ABC	Krembs, Michael					
	Kwon, Peter					
HR	Mahler, John					
Clerk	Martin, James F	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Valid min	Mattice, Taryn B					
	Mays, Lisa Ruth	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
HR	Miller, Dean					
	Montfort, Mark	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	More, H Adelbert III		Present	Excused	Excused	Excused
	Outterson-Murphy	Present				
	Peak, Robert T	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
	Piedmonte, Mark	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Excused
HR	Presby, Allen L		Present			
	Raube, Patricia	Excused	Excused		Present	Excused
HR	Renton, Barbara A	Excused	Present	Present		
HR	Robinson, David C					Present
	Schindler – see Vittorio					
at large	Schwartz, Barbara	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Shepard, Lynn	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
	Suggs, Arthur M					
HR	Thomas, Ronald					
ABC	Vance, Tom	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	Present
	Vittorio Schindler, Garrett	Present		Present	Present	Present
	Vittorio Schindler, Marena	Present		Present	Present	Present
	Walton-Leavitt, Cynthia	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	Wemple Jr, Delbert					
	Wilson, Carol	Present	Present	Present	Excused	
	Wolff, Patty	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Total		21+3Clp	23+1Clp	26+1 Clp	23+2Clp	21+3Clp

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”)	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016	May 21, 2016	Feb 13, 2016
Scott Kindig – Cabinet	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Marsha Muller -- COM co-chair	Present	Present		Present	
Joan Oliver -- Cabinet	Present	Present	Present	Present	
Wildenstein, Judith – PWP Rep.	Present	Present		Present	Present
Total	4	4	2	4	2

**Corresponding Members: Gwen & John Haspells (Southern Kansas), Jim Hicks (Geneva).
Visitors, Staff & Host church volunteers:** Christine Rogalski, Linda Breffle, Chris Burger,
Cheryll Berg, Judy Gage, John Truscott.

Total Tally of Presbytery Commissioners

Teaching Elders Present:	21	Churches Represented by a Ruling Elder:	22
Corresponding Members:	2	Corresponding Member (ruling elder):	1
Total Teaching Elders:	23	Commissioned Lay Pastors Present:	3
Teaching Elders Excused:	7	Other Voting Ruling Elders Present:	4
Teaching Elders Absent w/o Excuse:	7	Total Ruling Elders Present:	30
APA Members: 0		Commissioned Lay Pastors absent w/o excuse:	0
Visitors+ Host Church Volunteers:	6	Commissioned Lay Pastors Excused:	1
Total Enrolled Attendance	59	Churches Requesting Excuse	4
		Churches Not Represented:	26

Introduction of New Business, Approval of the Agenda

The Agenda was **approved**.

Presbytery **Approved** the **Consent Agenda[#2]** with the removal of some year-end financial and Treasurer's reports [#16,#18,#21,#23,#24].

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**Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
Consent Agenda March 18, 2017**

There are no written reports numbered [#3] [#4] [#5] [#11] [#12] [#13] and [#14] as of Friday March 17, 2017.

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE ADOPTED WITH ONE MOTION.

Action items are considered approved and information items are considered received when adopting a Consent Agenda. Any voting member may remove a specific item or complete report for later debate, question or separate action. This is done by a simple request at the time the Consent Agenda is presented.

[#5] Committee on Ministry Report - all except for report about restructuring COM and vote to confirm Marsha Muller as co-chair

[#9, #9A, #9B] Stated Clerk - all except Dates/Places of Fall Meetings

[#15] Assembly Minutes of November 19, 2016 at First, Gilbertsville

[#17] Statement of Activities 2/28/2017

[#19] Cash Flows 2/28/2017

[#20] Mission Giving/ Per Capita Financial Report 2/28/2017

[#22] Statement of Activities - Year End 2016

[#25] Mission Giving/ Per Capita Financial Report - Year End 2016

-----end of Consent Agenda items-----

Committee on Nominations -- Garrett Schindler(Bovina) gave the report and after opportunity for nominations from the floor, Presbytery elected:

- **Marsha Muller** (RE, Walton) **co-chair of the Committee on Ministry** Class of 2017
 - **Neal Miller**(RE, Oneonta First) **Presbytery Cabinet** Class of 2019 - and Finance Chair
 - **David Johnson** (TE, Cortland UP) **chair of Cabinet** Class of 2017
- At the end of the meeting:
- **Janet Adair Hansen** (TE, Christ Community) **Committee on Ministry** Class of 2019 **and co-chair of the Committee on Ministry** Class of 2017

Patty Wolff is resigning as Cabinet Chair and **Pat Raube** as co-chair of COM (but remaining on committee).

Committee on Lay Preaching--Deb Fleming(CLP, Cabin Hill) reported. Presbytery **approved** commissioning Ruling Elders **Becky Smith**(Stamford), **Karen Marshfield**(Hamden), **Lynn Reeves**(Afton), **Jo Ann Aymar**(Masonville), **John Truscott**(Otego), **Linda Breffle**(Johnson City), **Marsha Muller**(Walton) and **Judi Gage**(Stamford) to provide pastoral care in the churches below identified by the Committee on Ministry for this purpose in 2017.

After discussion and removal of **Andes** from the list of vacant or underserved churches: **Afton, Immanuel, Hancock, Lordville, Smithville Flats, Deposit and Windsor**, Presbytery **delegated approval** for the Committee on Ministry to renew their commissions annually and add or remove churches from the list for this designation. Sessions who wish to be included or leave the list should contact COM.

Presbytery **commissioned** ruling elders, Karen Marshfield, Joann Aymar(in absentia), Marsha Muller, Judi Gage, John Truscott, Linda Breffle, Lynn Reeves to this service in the specified churches.

A flyer "Heeding God's Call" was distributed as an invitation to join a new class for lay preachers.

Committee on Ministry -- Marsha Muller, co-chair noted that co-chair Pat Raube is ill today and reiterated the welcome to Interim Pastor **Julie Jensen** (Nineveh) and **Bobby Outterson Murphy**(Delhi United Ministry).

Marena Vittorio Schindler (Andes) and **Garrett Vittorio Schindler** (Bovina) presented a duo-dialogue on how and why commissioners from churches would gather in groups during lunch at Presbytery Assemblies to be "liaisons to one-another". COM is not continuing the old pattern of assigning committee members as liaisons to every congregation. This proposal will be sent out for feedback.

Lynn Reeves (Afton) reported for the Ethiopian Partnership Ministry Team (**EPMT**), introducing **John** and **Gwen Haspels** who shared their story of wounding, forgiveness and reconciliation in Ethiopia. Lynn announced the Ethiopian Mission Network gathering May 4-7 near Pittsburgh (Monongahela PA) hoping to have a delegation from here to attend.

After a generous stretch break, **Chris Burger** (United, Binghamton) reported for the Task Force working on a Manual of Operations (Standing Rules) and shared the document for a first reading by commissioners. The Task Force included **Chris Burger, Judy Gage, David Johnson** and **Cynthia Walton-Leavitt**. A motion was **approved** for any suggested changes to be sent to the team through the Stated Clerk by May 1, 2017, in preparation for a vote at the May Assembly.

The **Cabinet Report** was given by **David Johnson** on damage to pipes and walls at the former Mission Center in Bainbridge. The \$7000 in repairs is being covered mostly by insurance. Groups 'Operation Merry Christmas' and 'Lavender Fields Farm' are using the building for storage and retreat days. There has been recent interest by potential purchasers of the building.

In regard to Presbytery Finances for 2016, we have received more outstanding per capita than in the past, and also exceeded our goal for the unified Mission budget. We had audits / financial reviews completed for 2014 and 2015.

Presbytery **approved** a motion to receive the **2015 Financial Review**[#26]. A review for 2016 will begin after tax season. We plan to have a full audit every 5 years.

Presbytery **approved** designating \$5000 from the Don Law Bequest to provide \$1000 each year 2017 – 2021 to provide mileage reimbursement for Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) who have been trained to provide pastoral care to churches without pastors who request their services. A line item will be added to the 2017 Budget. At the end of each year, unused funds will be rolled over into the next year. At the end of five years, unused funds will be returned to the Don Law Bequest Funds. This fund does not cover honorariums for Lay Preaching.

At the Order of the Day, a **motion was approved** to extend the Agenda 15 minutes following the Sharing of Good News, if necessary, to complete the remaining reports and business.

A half dozen Good News and announcements were shared: Lisa Heckman invited all the worship leaders to celebrate holy week worship on April, 11th. Red Door church is using the labyrinth throughout lent as part of our Lenten journey. The Hartwick Summer Institute is looking for faculty for the last week in July. Camperships are now available, it is not financial need based, fliers are available out on the table. Doug Hatch shared that Marathon will have a Maple Festival, April 1 & 2. Christine Rogalski appealed to the Assembly for meeting evaluations and feedback!

There was no report from Personnel committee.

Stated Clerk Jim Martin reported, leaving his written reports unread, and highlighted that the **September 16 Presbytery Assembly will be hosted in Nineveh**, rather than a joint meeting with Lackawanna Presbytery in Waverly, as originally reported. A host location is still needed for November.

He also commented on the documents for a 'first reading', preparing to vote on the Amendments to the Constitution at the May Assembly, which includes a complete replacement of the **Directory for Worship**. GA Commissioners **George Budine** and **Patty Wolff** commented on items in their chart of the proposed Amendments related to 'Renunciation of Jurisdiction'.

Presbytery adjourned with prayer before the meal at 12:04.

The next Stated Assembly will be Saturday, May 20, 2017, First Presbyterian Union Church, Owego, NY.

As is usual, the final, permanent minutes of this Assembly will also include the reports and handouts distributed at this meeting.