

Minutes in Seconds
Digest of Actions Taken at the Stated Meeting
of The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
Nineveh Presbyterian Church, Nineveh NY Saturday September 16, 2017

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**(Oneonta 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.

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**.

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. **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.

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 the CNYPresbyteries 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.

The **Stated Clerk** reported the dates of upcoming **Session Record Reviews** at various locations here and the Session Annual Statistical Reports on the GA website. 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.

Marena and **Garret Schindler** shared a survey being taken today on the future plan for congregations to serve as liaisons to one another.

After a motion 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** and about the plan to have a discussion on combining that committee and the Committee on Preparation together.

After sharing nearly two dozen announcements and comments about Good News, Presbytery adjourned with prayer and singing led by the Moderator at 12:18.

The next Presbytery Assembly will be held at the United Presbyterian Church, Cincinnatus NY on Saturday November 18, 2017.