

**Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Assembly  
Minutes of Saturday May 20, 2017  
First Presbyterian Union Church, Owego NY**

Following a half-hour worship led by Deacon **Susie Hall**(Owego), **Julie Jensen**(Nineveh), **Bobby Outterson-Murphy**(Delhi, United Ministry), **Peg Williams**(Endicott, Union), **Sharan Rosso**(Valley United), **Marsha Muller**(Walton), **Lisa Heckman**(Owego) and **Scott Kindig**(Endicott, Union), with music by organist **BJ Heinle** and an ad-hoc bell choir, the meeting was called to order by Moderator **George Budine**(Nichols) at 9:38 a.m. An offering of \$470 was divided between the Pentecost Offering and the Tioga County Rural Ministry.

A quorum was present – 18 churches were represented by Ruling Elder Commissioners, 22 Teaching Elders, 1 Commissioned Lay Pastor, 4 Ruling Elders with vote due to office, 2 corresponding members and 9 visitors and office staff.

First time commissioner **Michael Armstrong**(Deposit) and **Jim Pierson**(Observer, Nichols) were introduced. **Jim Hicks**(Presbytery of Geneva, Interim at Dryden) and **Hemant Tandi**(Church of North India) were welcomed and seated as corresponding members. The total enrolled attendance was 57.

Host Interim Pastor **Lisa Heckman** introduced the co-Historian of the church's Bicentennial committee, Ruling Elder **John Shafer**, who gave a welcome and historical overview of the church, including its rather unique name. The Roll was taken by computers in the fellowship hall.

**Roll:**

<b>CHURCH</b>	<b>May 20,2017</b>	<b>March 3, 2017</b>	<b>Nov 19, 2016</b>	<b>Sept 17, 2016</b>	<b>May 21, 2016</b>
Afton		Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves
Andes					Joi Brundage
Bainbridge	Paula Epply	Excused	Paula Epply	Cheryl Nages	Excused
Binghamton, Immanuel				Catherine Bocinski	
Binghamton, John Hus					
Binghamton, Ross Mem'l					
Binghamton, United	Chris Burger	Cynthia Burger	Marilyn Myers	Cynthia Burger	Ann Garcia
Bovina Center					
Cincinnati					
Conklin		Beth Lewis	Doug Moore	Doug Moore	
Cortland, United	Darlene Latten	Thomas Corey	Russell Ruthig	Carol Foster	Scott Gay
Cortlandville, Christ	Nancy Wheatley	Jenny Wissink		Dot Thomas	Excused
Charlotte Valley	Excused	Roberta Barringer	Nancy E Banker	Joan Burger	Nancy E. Banker
Cabin Hill					
De Lancey					
Delhi First	Beatrice Mooney	Excused	Thomas Phillion	Bea Mooney	Renee Maxwell
Delhi United Ministry	Otto Frederick Onasch	Otto Frederick Onasch	Fred Onasch		Fred Onasch
West Delhi		Steven Fleming			
Deposit	Michael Armstrong	Alice Martin	Alice Martin	Alice Martin	Alice Martin
Dryden	David Smith	David Smith		John Scott	

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East Guilford	Sharon Havens	Janet Lafayette	April Geiger	Sharon Havens	Sharon Havens
Endicott Union	Peggy Williams			Peg Corwin	Jane Park
Endwell Northminster	Diana Nogaret	Juni Brooks	Junietta Brooks	Suzanne Erle	excused
Garrattsville			Joan Loeffler	Joan Loeffler	Joan Loeffler
Gilbertsville		Don Osborne	Susan Pochy	Winona Slaughter	Shirley Keene
Hamden	Karen Marshfield	Karen A. Marshfield	Karen Marshfield	Karen Marshfield	Karen Marshfield
Hancock					
Hobart			William Coleman		
Johnson City		Glenna Coutts			Glenna Coutts
Laurens					Excused
Lordville				Excused	
Marathon					
Margaretville/ New Kingston					
Masonville	Jo Ann Aymar	Excused	Jo Ann Aymar	Kathryn Carvin	Excused
Nichols	Andrea Seeley	Excused	Excused	Andrea Seeley	Excused
Nineveh	Barbara Dillingham	Barbara Dillingham		Barbara Dillingham	Barbara Dillingham
Oneonta First		Ron Wood	Shirley Fioravanti	Carolyn Palm	Libby Cudmore
Oneonta First United		Linda Allen			
Otego					
Owego	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King
Smithville Flats	Diane Merrill			Ruby Fiene	Diane Merrill
Stamford					Becky Smith
Unadilla		David Johnson		Louise Lesh	Chris Bomba
Walton	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski	Michael Krusinski
Valley United		Jim Parks		Dale Barber	Dale Barber
Windsor					
Worcester				Judith McAdams	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>22</b>

<b>Status</b>	<b>CLERGY</b>	<b>May 20,2017</b>	<b>March 3, 2017</b>	<b>Nov 19, 2016</b>	<b>Sept 17, 2016</b>	<b>May 21, 2016</b>
HR	Amalfitano, Frank					
HR	Beattie, Douglas G					
HR	Bjorkman, Leonard	Present			Present	Present
CLP	Budine, George	Present	Present	Present		Present
CLP	Carruth, George		Present		Present	
	Chastain, Kimberly	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
CLP	Davis, Shirley		Excused		Excused	Present
HR	De Noyelles, Roger					
HR	Dittman, Sharon J					
HR	Downing, Barry					
	Elfond, Cheryl Ann	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused
CLP	Fleming, Deborah	Excused	Present		Excused	Excused
HR	Francis, Dale	Present	Present	Present	Present	
EPIS	Hamilton, Paul		Present		Present	Present
UCC	Hansen, Janet Adair	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Excused
	Hatch, Douglas		Present	Present		
	Heckman, Lisa S.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
at large	Heinle, Robert H	Present	Excused	Excused	Present	

Status	CLERGY	May 20,2017	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016	May 21, 2016
	Hooker, Christopher	Excused		Excused	Present	Present
	Hooker, Sarah	Excused		Present	Present	Excused
	Horne, Douglas A	Present		Present		Excused
	Jensen, Julie	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		Present
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	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	Miller, Dean					
	Montfort, Mark	Excused	Present	Present	Present	Present
	More, H Adelbert III	Excused		Present	Excused	Excused
	Outterson-Murphy	Present	Present			
	Peak, Robert T	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
	Piedmonte, Mark	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
HR	Presby, Allen L			Present		
	Raube, Patricia	Present	Excused	Excused		Present
HR	Renton, Barbara A	Present	Excused	Present	Present	
HR	Robinson, David C					
	Schindler – see Vittorio					
at large	Schwartz, Barbara	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
	Shepard, Lynn	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
	Suggs, Arthur M					
HR	Thomas, Ronald					
ABC	Vance, Tom	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Excused
	Vittorio Schindler, Garrett	Excused	Present		Present	Present
	Vittorio Schindler, Marena	Excused	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	Present
<b>Total</b>		<b>22+1Clp</b>	<b>21+3Clp</b>	<b>23+1Clp</b>	<b>26+1 Clp</b>	<b>23+2Clp</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

ELDER (“equalized”)	May 20,2017	March 3, 2017	Nov 19, 2016	Sept 17, 2016	May 21, 2016
Scott Kindig – Cabinet	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Marsha Muller -- COM co-chair	Present	Present	Present		Present
Joan Oliver -- Cabinet	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Wildenstein, Judith – PWP Rep.	Present	Present	Present		Present
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>

**Corresponding Members: Jim Hicks (Geneva), Hemant Tandi (Church of North India)**

**Visitors, Staff & Host church volunteers:** Christine Rogalski, Judy Bjorkman, Yvonne Bowker, Susie Hall, Daniel Hall, BJ Heinle, Tracia Muller, Cheryll Berg, Jim Pierson, Joan Wise-Hostetter.

**Total Tally of Presbytery Commissioners**

Teaching Elders Present:	22	Churches Represented by a Ruling Elder:	18
Corresponding Members:	2	Corresponding Member (ruling elder):	
Total Teaching Elders:	24	Commissioned Lay Pastors Present:	1
Teaching Elders Excused:	9	Other Voting Ruling Elders Present:	4
Teaching Elders Absent w/o Excuse:	6	Total Ruling Elders Present:	23
APA Members: 0		Commissioned Lay Pastors absent w/o excuse:	2
Visitors+ Host Church Volunteers:	9	Commissioned Lay Pastors Excused:	1
Total Enrolled Attendance	57	Churches Requesting Excuse	1
		Churches Not Represented:	29

**Introduction of New Business, Approval of the Agenda**

The Agenda was **approved** rearranging Lay Preaching before COM and with the addition of the Committee on Preparation, corrections and the Treasurers report to be handled under the Finance sub-committee report.

In place of a Consent Agenda, Presbytery **Approved** the Minutes of the March 18, 2017 Assembly at Oneonta with a correction to the Roll and received the Financial Reports [#17,#18,#19] .

**Committee on Preparation -- Mark Piedmonte**(Gilbertsville/Garrattsville) gave the report and after opportunity for nominations from the floor, Presbytery elected Readers for Standard Ordination Exams:

**Scott Kindig** (RE, Endicott)

**Becky Kindig** (TE, Binghamton United)

**Patty Wolff** (TE, East Guilford, Delaware Trinity) Alternate Reader

Later in the meeting under Unfinished Business, Presbytery amended the election, reversing the roles of the Ministers:

**Patty Wolff** (TE, East Guilford, Delaware Trinity)

**Becky Kindig** (TE, Binghamton United) Alternate Reader

**Committee on Lay Preaching** -- the committee currently lacks a chair. Member **Sharon Knoell Rosso**(Valley United) attested to Ruling Elder **Marsha Muller's** preparation and readiness for service as a Commissioned Lay Pastor. A motion to receive this report was approved.

**Committee on Ministry** -- co-chair **Janet Adair Hansen** presented the committee recommendation to approve Marsha Muller as Commissioned Lay Pastor for the Deposit church for an initial one year contract. After discussion a **motion passed** to follow the order that we first have a statement that the call does exist, and then we approve the call, and third we hear her statement of faith and examine her.

Presbytery **approved** the call requested by the Deposit Session and recommended by the Committee on Ministry.

Having approved the call, Presbytery heard her Statement of Faith, questioned Marsha, **arrested the examination** and after discussion, **moved to end debate**.

Presbytery **voted to approve** her commissioning.

Moderator George Budine led Presbytery in the service of commissioning the Lay Pastor.

The committee also recommended a re-commissioning **for three years** of ruling elders to officiate at the Lord's Supper at the approved list of churches. Presbytery **approved** the following elders for this service: **JoAnn Aymar, Michele Brackin, Linda Breffle, George Budine, George Carruth, Shirley Davis, Fred Downs, Deb Fleming, Judi Gage, Marsha Muller, Lynn Reeves, Karen Siekmann-Marshfield, John Truscott**. Additionally, for the Bainbridge Church only: **Cheryl Nages, Paula Tillapaugh**.

The list of churches currently includes: **Afton, Bainbridge, Conklin Broad Avenue North Chapel, Deposit, East Guilford, Hancock, Immanuel, John Hus, Lordville, Nineveh, Smithville Flats, Stamford, Walton and Windsor**.

Vice-Moderator **Robert Peak**(Johnson City)conducted the commissioning service.

The Moderator declared a stretch break. During stretch break Presbyters were asked to discuss what your church does with the Pentecost offering if you take one.

The meeting was called back to order at 11:20 a.m.

The **Ethiopian Partnership** yielded their report time and several people shared verbally what their congregation does with the local portion of the Pentecost offering.

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.

By motion, the Treasurer's Reports for year-end 2016 and January-February 2017 were **referred back** to the Finance Committee, since questions about the way the report is presented had been raised.

**Chris Burger**(Binghamton United), chair of the Team to revise the By-Laws, presented the *Manual of Administrative Operations* and also proposed an amendment. The text of the amendment was shown on the screen and after further amendment and voting to close debate, the amended Manual of Administrative Operations was **approved** with language about committees revised to read "membership on committees shall conform to the Book of Order". Presbytery also **approved** a motion to revise all references in the By-Laws concerning "standing rules" to read "Manual of Administrative Operations". The moderator dismissed the Task Force with thanks.

**Stated Clerk** Jim Martin reported that minutes of the presbytery for 2014, 2015, and 2016 have been read and reviewed by the Synod gathering of Stated Clerks and will be recommended for approval by Synod at the Synod Assembly this fall.

At the suggestion of the Moderator, the Order of the Day for Lunch was **postponed** to 12:30 p.m.

By motion, the recommendations of our commissioners to the General Assembly were approved as the votes of the Presbytery on the **Amendments to the Constitution**, approving all items except 16-2.

**Chris Burger** speaking for the **Justice in Mission Ministry Team**, introduced **Hemant Tandi** (Church of North India) who gave an update on the Orissa Mission with a PowerPoint display of pictures. Chris announced that the JIMM Team is looking for new members and Synod is looking for people to serve in immigration, prison ministry and other justice issues.

During New/Unfinished Business Presbytery amended the election of Ordination Exam Readers to reverse the roles (primary/alternate) of the Teaching Elders as previously noted.

After sharing 10 events and announcements about Good News from around the Presbytery and Synod, Presbytery adjourned with prayer and singing "Jesus Lifted Me" before lunch at 12:30.