

**Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Assembly
Minutes of Saturday November 2, 2013
United Presbyterian Church, Binghamton, NY**

Presbytery Moderator **Lisa Heckman** called the Assembly to Order with prayer at 9:00 a.m. A quorum was present as shown in the roll below - 24 churches were represented by Ruling Elder Commissioners, 3 Commissioned Lay Pastors, 5 Ruling Elders with vote due to office, 23 Teaching Elders, 1 Corresponding Member, and 17 visitors and host church volunteers. First time commissioners Fran Nichols(Laurens), Christine Conkling(Walton) and Rev. Michael Krembs (Ross Memorial) were introduced. Rev. James Belt (ABC, Interim at Masonville) was seated as a corresponding member.

The total enrolled attendance was 73.

Host Pastor, Teaching Elder **Kimberly Chastain**, gave a welcome, directions and historical background on the church and its current ministry after just two years of merged existence.

CHURCH	Nov 2, 2013	Sept 21, 2013	June 29, 2013	April 20, 2013	Feb 23, 2013
Afton	Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves		Lynn Reeves	Lynn Reeves
Andes		James Andrews	Jim Andrews		Jim Andrews
Bainbridge	Mary Ellen Whitmore	Mary Ellen Whitmore	George T Williams	Evelyn Baker	
Binghamton, Immanuel	Catherine J Bocinski				
Binghamton, John Hus					
Binghamton, Ross Mem'l	Susan Skinner				
Binghamton, United	Ann Garcia		Suzanne Northrup Raboy		Ann Garcia
Bovina Center		Michael H. Worden	Amy Burns		
Cincinnatus		Fred M S Downs			William Killebrew
Conklin		Douglas Moore		Doug Moore	
Cortland, United		Carol Foster	Darlene N Latten	Carol Foster	Lisa Hoeschele
Cortlandville, Christ	Ralph Hesse	Diane Batzing	Excused	Richard Carle	Excused
Charlotte Valley	Excused	Els Myers	Bert Barringer	Excused	Mary Lou Mattice
Cabin Hill		Kristen Baxter	Bob Stevens		
De Lancey		Excused			
Delhi First	Excused	Lou Dibble	Nancy J Lee	Lou Dibble	Kevin Lee
Delhi United Ministry	Otto Frederick Onasch	Excused		Fred Onash	Excused
West Delhi		Bruce Hoyt	Steve R Fleming		
Deposit	Alice Martin	Excused	Alice Martin	Excused	Alice Martin
Dryden	David Smith	Michelle Brackin	Excused	David Smith	David Smith
East Guilford	Kathy Schmidt		Janet Lafayette	David Williams	Kathy Schmidt
Endicott First	Janet Frederick	David M. Jenkins		David M. Jenkins	Excused
Endicott Union	Susan Troy	Peg Williams	Peggy Williams		Susan Troy
Endwell Northminster	Junietta Brooks	Scott Kindig	Scott Kindig		Kathy Close
Garrattsville	Excused		Joan Loeffler	Joan Loeffler	
Gilbertsville	Roberta Halbert	Duane Jacobs	Rose Foster	Roger Halbert	Nancy L. Meyers
Hamden	Karen Marshfield	Marsha Muller	Marsha Muller	Karen Marshfield	Karen Marshfield
Hancock					
Hobart					
Johnson City		Glenna Coutts	Glenna Coutts		Glenna Coutts
Laurens	Fran Nichols	Beverly Ballard	Rudy Ballard	Nola Henry	Sue Hoyt

CHURCH	Nov 2, 2013	Sept 21, 2013	June 29, 2013	April 20, 2013	Feb 23, 2013
Lordville	Excused		Excused	Excused	Excused
Marathon	Joanne Rienhardt				Joanne Rienhardt
Margaretville/ New Kingston					
Masonville	Kathryn Carvin	Kathryn M Carvin	Kathryn M Carvin		Excused
Nichols	Excused	Excused			Excused
Nineveh					
Oneonta First	Barbara Means	Carolyn Palm	Isabelle Niles	Julia Smith	Al Lutz
Oneonta First United		Nadine Stenson		Excused	Nadine Stenson
Otego				Ron Embling	Duane McMorris
Owego	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Stuart Rogers	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King
Smithville Flats	Joan Barker	Joseph R Tyo	Joan Barker	Joseph R Tyo	Diane Merrill
Stamford	Fred Doyle	Fred Doyle	Fred Doyle	Excused	Robert Graves
Unadilla			Louise Lesh	JoAnn Aymar	Prudence Danforth
Walton	Christine Conkling	Carl Mugglin	Carl Mugglin		Daniel A Patsos
Waverly	Dale Barber			Joseph L. Dabroski	
Windsor					
Worcester					
TOTAL	24	26	25	20	25

Status	CLERGY	Nov 2, 2013	Sept 21, 2013	June 29, 2013	Apr 20, 2013	Feb 23, 2013
HR	Amalfitano, Frank					
HR	Beattie, Douglas G					
HR	Bjorkman, Leonard			Present	Present	
	Bridges, Parrish L	Present		Present	Excused	Excused
CLP	Budine, George	Present				Present
CLP	Carruth, George		Present	Excused	Present	Present
	Chastain, Kimberly	Present	Present		Na	na
CLP	Davis, Shirley		Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused
HR	De Noyelles, Roger					
	Devine, Janice P	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
	Devine, Timothy M	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
HR	Dittman, Sharon J					
HR	Downing, Barry		Present		Present	
	Elfond, Cheryl Ann	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused	Excused
HR	Early, Vincent					
CLP	Fleming, Deborah	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
HR	Francis, Dale	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
CLP	Gage, Judi	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
UCC	Hansen, Janet Adair		Excused	Excused	Excused	Present
	Hatch, Douglas	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
	Heckman, Lisa S.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
at large	Heinle, Robert H		Excused	Present	Present	Excused
HR	Hicks, James E					Present
	Hooker, Christopher	Excused	Present	Present	Present	
	Hooker, Sarah	Excused	Present	Present	Present	
	Horne, Douglas A	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
	Hummel, Cynthia Huling		Excused			
	Johnson, David H.	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	King, Marie					

Status	CLERGY	Nov 2, 2013	Sept 21, 2013	June 29, 2013	Apr 20, 2013	Feb 23, 2013
ABC	Krembs, Michael	Present				
HR	Mahler, John					
Clerk	Martin, James F	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Valid min	Mattice, Taryn B	Present				
	Mays, Lisa Ruth	Present	Present	Present	Excused	Present
HR	Miller, Dean					
	Montfort, Mark	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	More, H Adelbert III		Excused			
	O'Hara, Diarmuid	Present	Excused	Present	Present	Present
	Peak, Robert T		Present	Present		Present
	Piedmonte, Mark	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
HR	Presby, Allen L		Present	Present	Present	
	Raube, Patricia	Present	Present	Present		Excused
HR	Renton, Barbara A					
	Robinson, David C	Excused	Present	Excused	Excused	Present
	Schindler – see Vittorio					
at large	Schwartz, Barbara	Present	Present	Excused	Present	Present
	Shepard, Lynn	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Stephens, Jared	Excused	Present	Excused	Excused	
	Suggs, Arthur M					
HR	Swanson, Steven					
HR	Thomas, Ronald					
	Tyler, Emrys	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
UMC	Vink, Martha					Excused
	Vittorio Schindler, Garrett	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Vittorio Schindler, Marena	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
	Walton-Leavitt, Cynthia	Excused	Present	Present	Excused	Present
HR	Wemple Jr, Delbert					
	Wilson, Carol	Excused	Present	Excused	Excused	Present
	Wolff, Patty	Present	Present	Present	Present	Excused
Total		23+3CLP	25+3CLP	27+2CLP	24+1CLP	27+4 CLP

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, ABC = American Baptist Church

ELDER (“equalized”)	Nov 2, 2013	Sept 21, 2013	June 29, 2013	Apr 20, 2013	Feb 23, 2013
Bonne, Tom - Council	Present	Present		Present	
Burger, Chris – Council	Present				
Close, Kathy – CPM		Present	Present	Excused	present
Gage, Judith - Vice Moderator	CLP	CLP	CLP	Excused	CLP
Gray, JoAnn – Council	Present	Present	Excused		Present
Halbert, Roger – Council				Present	
Mays, Charlie - Council		Present	Present	Present	Present
Riddell, Linda – Council Moderator	Present	Present	Present	Excused	
Wildensteint, Judith – PWP Rep.		Present	Present	Present	Present
Wise-Hostetter, Joan – COM Co-Chair	Present	Present	Present	Present	Present
Total	5	7	5	5	4

Corresponding Member: Rev. James Belt (American Baptist Churches, Interim at Masonville)

Visitors (12): Marcy DiRose and Linda McDevitt (Ross Memorial), Jo Ann Aymar(Unadilla), Barry Batzing(Christ, Cortlandville), Peg Corwin (Endicott, Union), Becky Kindig(Endwell, Northminster), Marie Kehl, Triennium Delegates: Alicia Dixon-Garrard, Jazmine-Rebeka Meade, Courtney Lewis, Randy Way, Shawn Pena (Nineveh)

Staff and Host Church Volunteers(5): Christine Rogaliski (Office Administrator), Barbara Bartholomew, Suzie Northrup, Bonnie Wheeler, Gloria Westgate.

Total Tally of Presbytery Commissioners

Teaching Elders Present: 23	Churches Represented by a Ruling Elder: 24
Corresponding Members: 1	Corresponding Member (ruling elder):
Total Teaching Elders: 24	Commissioned Lay Pastors Present: 3
Teaching Elders Excused: 8	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: 1
Churches Requesting Excuse: 5	Commissioned Lay Pastors Excused: 1
Visitors+ Host Church Volunteers: 17	Churches Not Represented: 24

Introduction of New Business, Approval of the Agenda and Consent Agenda

The Proposed Agenda was approved.

The Consent Agenda was **approved** with the following items:

[#17] Minutes of September 21, 2013

[#18] September 2013 Financial Position

[#19] September 2013 Statement of Activities

[#20] September 2013 Mission Giving/ Per Capita Financial Report

----- end of consent agenda -----

Synod Commissioners Report

Ruling Elder **Jo Ann Gray**(Owego) and Teaching Elder **Parrish Bridges**(Owego), commissioners to the **Synod of the Northeast**, which met at Stony Point, October 18-20, 2013 gave verbal reports and a written report.[#4] They highlighted the Public Policy Advocacy Network(PPAN) presentation on "Racism and White Privilege" and the 18 page plan of the Synod Transitional Team "A New Way Forward" which spells out the Synod's missional purpose. Some main points listed in the document were read aloud (see written report). The plan includes phasing out the Presbytery Partnership Groups(PPG) and beginning to establish new patterns of networking, with 2 additional regional staff to promote networking. The Synod Budget approved a 5 cent increase in Per Capita.

Worship

Worship following the theme "**Praising God**" with scripture from Micah 6:6-8 & Haggai 2:1-9 was led by **Kimberly Chastain, Deb Fleming, Doug Hatch, Becky Kindig, Diarmuid O'Hara** with sermon "How Can We Sing" by Moderator **Lisa Heckman**. A \$500 offering was collected with half going to the Joy Offering and half to Broome County Council of Churches' CHOW hunger ministry.

Presbytery Council Report

Council Moderator **Linda Riddell** (Oneonta First) presented the report [#5], noting the dates of 2014 Assembly meetings and the need for more host churches.

Presbytery **approved** a motion to elect to the **Nominating Committee:**

Joan Wise-Hostetter (RE, Owego) class of 2015

Lynn Shepard (TE, at-large) class of 2016

Roger Halbert (RE, Gilbertsville) class of 2016

Mary Jane Schaeffer (RE, Gilbertsville) was previously elected, now class of 2016

Finance chair Tom Bonne(Cortland UP) presented the proposed **2014 Budget [#6]** with no increase in the Presbytery portion (\$20.74) of Per Capita, and a local staff raise in salaries of 5%, using reserve funds to balance the budget. Total 2014 Per Capita is \$31.71.

Presbytery **approved** the **2014 Budget** with a total Per Capita of \$31.71.

Moderator Lisa Heckman took time to recognize, give a gift, hug and lead Presbytery to thankfully applaud Council chair Linda Riddell for her help during the transition of the last year and as she leaves office at the end of 2013.

Committee on Ministry

The report [#7] was given by co-chair **Mark Montfort**. Since names had not been completely gathered by the last meeting of the COM, Presbytery **approved** the following Administrative Commission to Ordain **Rebecca Kindig** on November 17, 2013 at 3:00 pm at Northminster Presbyterian Church, Endwell:

Moderator **Lisa Heckman** (TE, Northminster), **Linda Glajch** (RE, Endicott First), **Kimberly Chastain** (TE, Binghamton United), **Marilyn Myers** (RE, Binghamton United), **Barry Downing** (TE, Conklin), **Pat Raube** (TE, Endicott Union), **Emrys Tyler**(TE, Nineveh) and seating as a corresponding member **Lori Neff**(TE, Presbytery of New Brunswick)

Presbytery **dismissed with thanks** the Administrative Commissions to Install the Rev. **Pat Raube** as Pastor of Union Presbyterian Church, Endicott on October 20, 2013 and the Rev. **Kimberly Chastain** as Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church, Binghamton on October 6, 2013.

The printed report of actions by the COM included permission to circulate a Ministry Information Form (a MIF now replaces the former CIF) for "**Valley United Presbyterian Church**" (Waverly, Sayre and Athens cooperating across borders) as they seek to call a Pastor and permission for the **Cortland United Presbyterian Church** to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee for a Designated term position.

The 2014 Pastor Compensation Worksheet has been revised again to match both the 2014 Compensation Document and the new dues rates for Board of Pensions. Churches are encouraged to use the online calculators at pensions.org. Churches and Pastors should note that open enrollment for optional coverages is now through November 15. Mark Monfort took time to recognize and thank co-chair **Joan Wise-Hostetter** as she goes off the committee.

Christian Nurture Team

8 **Youth Triennium** participants and sponsors Emrys Tyler and Becky Kindig led the assembly in an Energizer featuring hand motions and footwork having to do with water, digging, prayer, love and the Spirit of Christ. **Sean Cona, Courtney Lewis, Randy Way, Jazmine Meade** and **Alicia Dixon-Garrard** spoke enthusiastically and gratefully of their experience of the Triennium.

Committee on Lay Preaching

A written report was part of the meeting papers [#8] - no verbal report was given.

Ethiopian Partnership Team

Peg Corwin(Union, Endicott) and **Junietta Brooks**(Northminster, Endwell) reported, outlining the support that our budget includes for schools and scholarships. New appointments have been made for teachers and mission co-workers. Additional team members are needed for the work here and the Team has been meeting mainly by conference call, but will be having a face-to-face meeting at Nineveh as a group forms to go as visitors to Ethiopia February 9-26, 2014. Emrys Tyler spoke about this opportunity and invited people to join in the trip with the group that is already forming, which includes two high school students, himself and other adults.

Nominating Committee

Lynn Shepard gave the report [#10]:

2014 Presbytery Moderator: **Judi Gage**(RE, Laurens),

2014 Vice-Moderator **Emrys Tyler** (TE, Nineveh),

2014 Council Moderator: **Lisa Heckman** (TE, Northminster)

Committee on Lay Preaching: Chair **Cynthia Walton-Leavitt**(TE, Oneonta 1st United)

class of 2016: **Chris Hooker**(TE, at-large), **Patty Wolff**(TE, East Guilford)

class of 2015: **Mary Ellen Whitmore**(RE, Bainbridge)

Committee on Ministry: Co-Chair **Mark Montfort**(TE, Oneonta First)

class of 2016: **Bea Mooney** (RE, Delhi First), **Doug Hatch**(TE, Marathon), **Robert Peak** (TE, Johnson City), **David Robinson**(TE, Dryden)

Committee on Preparation: Chair **Mark Piedmonte**(TE, Gilbertsville)

class of 2016: **Kathy Close**(RE, Northminster), **Linda Glajch** (RE, Endicott First)

class of 2015: **Garrett Schindler**(TE, Bovina)

Committee on Representation: Chair **Jackie Pruyne** (RE, Northminster)

Permanent Judicial Commission class of 2019: **Bob Heinle**(TE, at-large)

2014 General Assembly Commissioners

Teaching Elder **Lynn Shepard** (at-large); Alternate **Patricia Wolff** (East Guilford)

Ruling Elder **Sarah Erckert** (Nineveh); Alternate **Deb Fleming** (West Delhi)

There were no nominations from the floor and Presbytery **approved their election.**

General Assembly Young Adult Advisory Delegate(YAAD) - needs to be filled and several vacancies are yet to be filled on Council and other committees. There may need to be a special Presbytery meeting to elect these unfilled offices.

Moderator Lisa Heckman conducted the service of Installation for the 2014 Moderator, Judi Gage and Vice-Moderator Emrys Tyler.

Stated Clerk

Jim Martin(Andes) gave his report [#11]. An additional Session Records review session was held this morning during the assembly bringing the total number of churches submitting records to 36.

Churches who have not submitted their records: Binghamton John Hus, Cincinnatus, DeLancey, Delhi United Ministry, Hancock, Hobart, Laurens, Lordville, Margaretville/New Kingston, Stamford, Windsor, Worcester.

Presbytery **voted to approve** the review of records for: Afton, Andes, Bainbridge, Binghamton Immanuel (2 years read), Binghamton Ross Memorial, Binghamton United, Bovina, Cabin Hill, Charlotte Valley, Conklin (2 years read), Christ Community, Cortland United, Delhi First, Deposit, Dryden, East Guilford (2 years read), Endicott First, Endicott Union, Endwell Northminster, Garrattsville, Gilbertsville, Hamden, Johnson City, Masonville, Marathon, Nichols, Nineveh, Otego (2 years read), Oneonta First, Oneonta United, Owego, Smithville Flats, Unadilla, Walton, Waverly and West Delhi.

Presbytery **approved** the following resolution:

CERTIFICATE OF RESOLUTION

The following is a true and exact copy of a Resolution taken by the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley at its assembly meeting on November 2, 2013 at Binghamton United Presbyterian Church, Binghamton NY.

RESOLVED, as follows:

Recognizing that Court approval and title work will be required prior to any transfer of ownership, and that transfer of ownership cannot take place until such Court Order has been received and title work has been completed,

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley hereby grants permission to the Charlotte Valley Presbyterian Church to transfer ownership of its North Kortright building and grounds to the Upper Room Ministries of Richmondville, with the understanding that all costs of such transfer will be paid by Upper Room Ministries of Richmondville.

To be dated and signed by the Moderator of Presbytery, the Chair of Council (Trustees), and the Stated Clerk of Presbytery (Secretary of the Corporation).

[for reference - the previous action on June 29, 2013 at Masonville, NY:

"Presbytery granted permission to the **Charlotte Valley Presbyterian Church** to transfer ownership of its **North Kortright Church** building and grounds at 83-85 North Kortright Road (Town of Kortright Tax Parcel 27.2-22, Deed dated March 19 and recorded December 26, 1850 in Delaware County NY Deeds Liber 36 pages 503-504) to the Upper Room Ministries of Richmondville, NY, when all necessary details and the legal work, including presentation to the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley through its Trustees, are completed. It is further understood that all closing costs will be paid by the Upper Room Ministries."

]

Presbytery **approved** the following two motions after they were seconded and discussed:

1. That the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Overture the Synod of the Northeast and the 221st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA) to approve the merger/consolidation of the Presbyterian Churches of Waverly NY, Athens PA and Sayre PA into **Valley United Presbyterian Church**, including redrawing Presbytery and/or Synod boundaries to make this merger possible.
2. To place the composition and sending of the Overture and its rationale into the hands of Presbytery's Council, in consultation with Lackawanna Presbytery and the Synods of the Northeast and the Synod of the Trinity

The reason for the detail on boundaries and consultation with the Synods stems from our experience at the previous General Assembly with transferring the Ithaca Church - the General Assembly amended and further delayed the action pending Synod's redrawing of boundaries.

After sharing of much Good News and Announcements, **Presbytery adjourned** with the Lord's Prayer in a large network of hands at 11:52 a.m.

The **next meeting** will be **March 1, 2014** at **First Presbyterian Church, Delhi.**