

The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Minutes of Council

May 9 mmvi

Attendance.

Ministers

Diane Curtis (ML), Moderator of Presbytery
Robert Martin (Crescent Avenue), Chair of Council
John Howard (Siloam-Hope), At-large
Robert Beringer (HR), Personnel Committee
Victoria Ney (Westfield), Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Elders

Alan Ford (Bethlehem), Vice-Moderator of Presbytery; General Assembly Council
Mabel Hansen (United), Presbyterian Women
Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Educational Ministries Unit
Lee Anne Lowman (Central), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit
Eunice Baer (Oak Tree), Past-Moderator of Presbytery
Belinda Brandon (Central), Financial Development Committee
Thomas Hale (Crescent Ave.), Committee on Representation
Blanche Schaffer (Central), At-large
Robert Jacobs (Liberty Corner), Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit
Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield), Synod of the Northeast
Susan Gieser (Westminster), Committee on Ministry

Ex officio

Rev. Paul F. Rack (Fanwood), Stated Clerk
Rev. David Bomgaars (Central), Treasurer of Presbytery
Elder Sara Burke (Westfield), Administrative Assistant
Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison (staff), Executive Presbyter

Not Present

Elder Gerald Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees of Presbytery
Deacon Jennine Dumas (Bethlehem), Youth Council
Rev. Linda Owens (LOB), At-large

Call to Order.

The Council of Elizabeth Presbytery met on Tuesday, May 9, 2006, at the United Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield, at 4:02 pm (EDT). The Council chair, Rev. Robert Martin (Crescent Ave.), led the Council in a devotional on blessing and the heart (Deuteronomy 6:4). Rev. Martin then opened the meeting with prayer.

Stated Clerk.

1. The Council **VOTED** to approve the distributed agenda for this meeting.
2. The Council **VOTED** to approve the Minutes of the Council meeting of April 11, 2006.
3. The Stated Clerk reported on the Minutes of Presbytery for 2005 being approved by the Synod with a few exceptions and commendations.
4. The Stated Clerk also reported on the document distribution policy and the use of passwords for

some information in the presbytery packet.

Council Chair.

Rev. Martin presented a letter from the Audit Committee, Elder Margaret Chilton (Central) and Elder George Vircik (Calvin) giving approval to the financial records of the presbytery, with some comments and helpful suggestions.

Treasurer.

1. Elder Bomgaars reported a positive cash flow and balance in the presbytery's accounts. The Council voted in August to move some money into the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program to support the facility improvements and expansion at the Edison Community church. This will lower the amount of money we have invested with the Foundation.
2. The Council **VOTED** to allow the Treasurer to draw up to \$46K from "retained earnings" from 2005 as needed to pay 2006 expenses. Then there will be no need to adjust the budget for 2006. This will also allow units to spend responsibly without waiting for late contributions to come in.
3. The Treasurer will give his Annual Report at the May Stated Meeting.

Council Chair.

Rev. Martin presented a letter from the Audit Committee, Elder Margaret Chilton (Central) and Elder George Vircik (Calvin) giving approval to the financial records of the presbytery, with some comments and helpful suggestions.

Executive Presbyter.

Rev. Foltz-Morrison gave his report.

1. He presented a statement about presbytery's work with Rev. Jane Watt, with supporting principles. Basically, Rev. Watt helps the presbytery develop mission support, build support for partnerships, and target mission goals. These would be used to inform prospective participants in the process. We are looking for "people with passion for mission." The success of this endeavor will depend on the caliber of the people involved. This document will come to the retreat for further reflection.
2. He informed the Council that the Moderator of the General Assembly, Elder Rick Ufford-Chase, has invited our presbytery to launch, with others, an effort to equip seminarians for serving in multi-cultural ministry by providing funding for a one-year supervised internship, which might result in a call to a church in our presbytery. The Council referred it jointly to CPM (if a candidate from this presbytery is involved) and PRISM, with Rev. Curtis and Rev. Howard.

Priority Items.

1. Council Retreat Team.
A sample agenda was presented for the planned retreat, as developed by Elder Ford. It was decided to divide up into separate small groups to address sections of the retreat, as follows:
Review of Reorganization - Barbara, Eunice, & Bob J.
Presbytery Meetings & Events/Worship & Theology Team - Diane, Vicky, John, & Helen
2. EP & SC Job Descriptions.
This discussion will be transferred to the retreat, and the second reading of this plan will not be done in May but at the June Stated Meeting of presbytery.

3. Docket Management: May Stated Meeting.
The Council established the final Docket for the May Stated Meeting.

Reports.

DRC - Rev. Beringer indicated that the commission wants 10 min at the June Stated Meeting.

EDU - The Council **VOTED** to assign a task force to address with future of the Resource Center. The Council **VOTED** to include Youth Triennium and Youth Retreat brochures in the packet for the May meeting.

PUP - The Council **VOTED** (with one negative vote) to provide \$500 scholarships for one minister and one elder to attend the "Common Ground" conference at Montreat in July. Elder Brandon noted that she has a house near Montreat which is available. The money would be taken from the Lay Leadership and Leadership Development lines (2312 & 2314) of the budget. The recipients will be asked to then serve on the Worship and Theology Team.

SNE - Elder McLaughlan presented bios of the new executives at the Synod: Rev. Clinton McCoy and Elder .

GAC - Elder Ford reported on the staff reductions at the national offices due to budget priorities. 75 people are losing their jobs. Over 50 oversees missionaries will not be replaced when their terms expire. Structurally, the divisions of the national office have been reorganized, removing duplications, and now exist in four areas. It is "a culture change and not just a downsizing."

Moderator.

Rev. Curtis presented a draft of a letter she has written to generate interest in the June 11 multi-cultural worship and fellowship event at the Central church.

Adjourn.

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn with a prayer by Rev. Martin at 6:17 pm (EDT).

Attest:

Rev. Paul F. Rack
Stated Clerk