

The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Minutes of Council

September 5 mmvi

Attendance.

Ministers

John Howard (Siloam-Hope), At-large
Robert Beringer (HR), Personnel Committee
John Illian (Central), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit
Michael Granzen (Elizabeth Second), Vice-Moderator of Presbytery
Dorothy Morris (SM), Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Elders

Alan Ford (Bethlehem), Moderator of Presbytery; General Assembly Council
Mabel Hansen (United), Presbyterian Women
Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Educational Ministries Unit
Lee Anne Lowman (Central), Vice-chair of Council
Blanche Schaffer (Central), At-large
Susan Gieser (Westminster), Committee on Ministry
Gerald Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees of Presbytery
Judy Wussler (Fanwood), Committee on Representation
Mr. Benjamin Martin (Crescent Avenue), Youth Advisory Delegate
Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit
Joanne Noblitt (Rahway First), Financial Development Committee

Ex officio

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

Not Present

Diane Curtis (Woodbridge), Past-Moderator of Presbytery
Victoria Ney (Westfield), Committee on Preparation for Ministry
Elder Robert Jacobs (Liberty Corner), Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit

Also Present

Ms. Kathy Genus (Westfield)

Call to Order.

The Council of Elizabeth Presbytery met on Tuesday, September 5, 2006, at the United Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield, at 4:05 pm (EDT). Elder Blanche Schaffer (Central), led the Council in a devotional on the Lord's Prayer. Elder Lee Anne Lowman (Central), the Vice-chair of Council, then called the meeting to order.

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 June 13, 2006.

“One-to-One”

The Council indulged in a time of getting to know one another, this being the first meeting of the new Council.

Treasurer's Report.

Elder David Bomgaars gave his report, focusing on the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Statement. Per capita receipts are on target at 65%. Cash flow is \$74K to the positive until the OSC checks are paid, which will bring us down to \$42K. All units are under budget in terms of expenses.

Executive Presbyter.

Rev. Foltz-Morrison presented his written report.

Administrative Assistant.

Sara Burke reported.

1. Council moving to a different week is okay. Need strong oversight by the Stated Clerk for the e-mailed Packet. The deadline is second Tuesday.
2. When does Council want the directory published and in what format? Council **VOTED** to make the Directory available on-line immediately in its present form, and publish a hopefully more complete hard copy in October.
3. The presbytery's per capita figure should be ready by October. However, since several churches would appreciate having the per capita number earlier, it was decided to release a preliminary estimate of \$20.

Priority Items.

1. Report from Personnel Committee on Stated Clerk position description.

(The Stated Clerk was absent for this portion of the meeting.)

In response to the request at the June Presbytery meeting and the recommendation of the Presbytery Committee on Personnel, the Presbytery Council **VOTED** to bring the following resolution for approval by the Presbytery:

- a) Commensurate with the increase in responsibilities, that the annual compensation for the position of Stated Clerk be increased by 32% or \$5800 to be effective from October 1st through December 31,2006.
 - b) In November, based on three months of experience operating under the new staff position descriptions, Personnel will again review the scope and effectiveness of the staff restructure and recommend changes if necessary.
2. Report from EDU.
 - a. The Council **VOTED** to rollover the \$3K budgeted for the Youth Triennium in 2007.
 - b. Elder Mosley reported some frustration that, without a Resource Center and Educational Director, the unit cannot serve the churches of this presbytery as effectively as in the past.
 - c. There seems to be no general support for the unit and its work from the presbytery. Kathy Genus reported. The discussion of Xtravaganza had the same concerns: lack of support. People are therefore not willing to venture out and work on these programs.

Attendance has gone down over the past few years; it has been around 100 for the past two years. The same trajectory has happened with the Ecumenical Training (for church school teachers) program. These programs may have run their course and the presbytery should consider not continuing them. An educational professional at the presbytery level would be helpful to keep churches (especially the smaller ones) current. There are other areas of training (Elders, Deacons, Treasurers, Clerks) that need to be attended to as well. We need to decide what the presbytery can do that churches cannot. It was decided to allow the EDU to let the Xtravanganza go for at least this coming year. Perhaps the Holy Spirit is telling us to try something new in the area of Christian education. The Personnel Committee recommends hiring a 12 hour per week person to work with the EDU.

The Council **VOTED** (with one negative vote) to ask the Personnel Committee to look into the position of Resource Educator, developing a job description, in consultation with the EDU and the FDC.

3. Asset Sharing Topic for the September Presbytery Meeting.

The Council decided on Summer Mission Projects as the asset sharing topic.

4. October Presbytery Meeting.

Several proposed themes for the October meeting were floated: PUP report ramifications? Transformation Team presentation? Officer training? Selected workshops? Leadership-fest? Present the budget? In the end, the question was referred to the Pre-council.

Reports.

1. OSC.

Elder Paddon presented.

- a. The Council **VOTED** to renew the 2 cents per meal program for 2006-2007, with money collected at presbytery meeting meals, with proceeds to be paid periodically to the Food for Friends program at Rahway Second.
- b. A check has been allocated and paid to Ms. Joyce Phipps as per presbytery' s action regarding her work as an attorney for people with immigration issues.

2. COM.

Elder Gieser noted that concern was stated at the COM meeting regarding the current Administrative Commission working at Elizabeth First. It is slated to expire in October. The COM may be asking for a new Administrative Commission to follow-up. It also needs to be determined whether the present Interim Pastor should continue there in some capacity.

Moderator.

Elder Ford presented his written report.

Vice-Moderator.

Rev. Granzen reported he will be representing the Moderator at Rev. Anne Havrilla's installation in Liberty

Corner.

Announcement.

There will be a party riding bicycles from the presbytery office to the presbytery meeting in Roselle.

Adjourn.

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn with a prayer by Elder Lowman at 6:34 pm (EDT).

Attest:

Rev. Paul F. Rack
Stated Clerk