

The Presbytery of Elizabeth Minutes of Council April 10 mmvii

Attendance.

Ministers

John Illian (Central), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, co-chair
Robert Beringer (HR), Personnel Committee
Victoria Ney (Westfield), Committee on Preparation for Ministry, chair
Michael Granzen (Elizabeth Second), Vice-Moderator of Presbytery

Elders

Robert Jacobs (Liberty Corner), Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit, chair
Alan Ford (Bethlehem), Moderator of Presbytery; General Assembly Council
Lee Anne Lowman (Central), Vice-chair of Council
Judy Wussler (Fanwood), Committee on Representation, chair; Synod of the Northeast
Joanne Noblitt (Rahway First), Financial Development Committee, chair
Gerald Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees of Presbytery, chair
Blanche Schaffer (Central), At-large
Mabel Hansen (United), Presbyterian Women, chair
Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Educational Ministries Unit, chair
Susan Gieser (Westminster), Committee on Ministry, chair

Ex officio

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

Not Present

Rev. John Howard (Siloam-Hope), At-large
Benjamin Martin (Crescent Avenue), Youth Advisory Delegate
Elder Barbara McLaughlin (Westfield), Synod of the Northeast
Elder Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, co-chair

Call to Order.

The Council of Elizabeth Presbytery met on Tuesday, April 10, 2007, at the United Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield, at 4:09 pm (EDT). Elder Joanne Noblitt (Rahway First), led the Council in a devotional on "his yoke is easy and his burden is light." She then offered a prayer.

Elder Lowman (Central), the Vice-Chair of Council, called the meeting to order.

She made the Council aware of an idea generated in the pre-council group that we hold times for "Theological Table Talk" during the pre-meeting times of certain Stated Meetings of presbytery. The Council thought this was a good idea and had a brief discussion of how we might improve the logistics of these gatherings.

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 March 13, 2007.

3. The Stated Clerk reported that the Permanent Judicial Commission is meeting to address charges filed against a minister in our presbytery by an Investigating Committee. It remains the hope that a settlement will be reached which will avoid a trial.
4. The Council previewed the Docket for the May Stated Meeting, in Carteret.
 - a. Skip Winter is working on his piece and is in contact with the planning team. The theme is "transition."
 - b. We have also had two pastors who have passed into the communion of the saints, William Roberts and Charles Fitz. Time will be devoted on the docket for remembrances.
 - c. Three candidates for Final Assessment may be presented by the CPM.
 - d. COM expects to have at least one new minister to be received into membership.
 - e. Second Reading of the Examination Task Force.
 - f. Extension for the First Elizabeth AC.
 - g. Treasurer's Annual Report
 - h. Special Nominating Committee

Four-on-Four.

Council members broke into groups to reflect on issues relating to the proposed Council Retreat. Ideas were collected for submission to the Pre-council group for further development.

Treasurer.

Elder Bomgaars presented his financial report.

1. He announced that the presbytery has renewed our volunteer accident insurance policy.
2. Cash flow is 39K to the positive, which is good. Nothing changed on balance sheet. The income portion shows recouping ca. 12K from last year's operations.
3. OSC money has not yet been paid out. Agreed to pay half of what agencies are pledged shortly. The Council **VOTED** to REFER for further investigation a motion to take \$900 out of retained earnings and given to global mission. This money was originally intended for Joyce Phipps under global mission, but wasn't spent. There remains some unclarity which needs to be resolved.

Priority Items.

1. Special Nominating Committee.

Council is responsible to nominate the Special Nominating Committee, which nominates the members of the Nominating Committee. The Council **VOTED** to nominate Rev. John Howard, and Elders Judith Wussler and Alan Ford.

2. Executive Presbyter Goals.

Rev. Beringer reported on the Personnel Committee's work in developing these goals with Rev. Foltz-Morrison.

3. Administrative Commission for New Church Development.

Elder Jacobs presented the plan developed by the Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit for an Administrative Commission which would be responsible for New Church Developments in the presbytery. The main area of discussion circled around whether the proposed Administrative Commission should both manage individual fellowships and at the same time do the strategic

work of church planting.

The Council agreed to have the Stated Clerk work with the ECVU to develop a warrant for this proposed Administrative Commission to bring to the May meeting of the Council. It should also delineate some of the tasks between the Administrative Commission and the Unit. The intention then would be to present it to the presbytery in May. The Moderator, in consultation with the Unit, will appoint the members of the Administrative Commission.

Reminders.

1. Networking lunches
2. 2007 Calendar. Participation in Mission Week; Youth focused meeting in September; NCD celebration at Hillside in November.
3. The Nominating Committee needs help.
4. SMART goals for the Units to be developed by October.

Report of the Vice-Moderator.

Rev. Granzen asked about the status of the proposed Worship And Theology Team (WATT). Rev. Karen Chamis has made a suggestion to him that she convene several other ministers and constitute the group. The Council agreed that this is a good beginning, and that the nascent group should be aware of issues of diversity.

Report of the Executive Presbyter.

Rev. Foltz-Morrison presented a written report.

Report of the Administrator.

1. Elder Sara Burke noted there is a luncheon planned for April 24 for administrators and church secretaries.
2. She also brought to the Council's attention that there are some changes in treasurers' manual which appears on the PCUSA website.

Adjourn.

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn with a closing prayer by the Council Vice-chair at 6:11 pm (EDT).

Attest:

Rev. Paul F. Rack
Stated Clerk