

# The Presbytery of Elizabeth

## Minutes of Council

### October 9 mmvii

#### **Attendance.**

##### Ministers

Michael Granzen (Elizabeth Second), Moderator of Presbytery  
John Howard (Siloam-Hope), At-large  
Jeffrey Wildrick (Dunellen), At-large  
Robert Martin (Crescent Ave.), Committee on Ministry  
Robert Foltz-Morrison (staff), Executive Presbyter

##### Elders

Lee Anne Lowman (Central), Chair of Council  
Judy Wussler (Fanwood), Committee on Representation, chair; Synod of the Northeast  
Joanne Noblitt (Rahway First), Financial Development Committee, chair  
Mabel Hansen (United), Presbyterian Women, chair  
Robert Jacobs (Liberty Corner), Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit, chair  
Gerald Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees of Presbytery, chair  
Susan Gieser (Westminster), Vice-Chair of Council (via conference call)  
Alan Ford (Bethlehem), Former Moderator of Presbytery; General Assembly Council  
Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield), Synod of the Northeast  
Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, co-chair  
Kathy Genus (Westfield), Education and Discipleship Unit, co-chair

##### Ex officio

Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison, Executive Presbyter  
Elder David Bomgaars (Central), Treasurer of Presbytery  
Elder Sara Burke (Westfield), Administrative Assistant

##### Excused

Rev. Paul Rack (Bethlehem), Stated Clerk  
Rev. Victoria Ney (Springfield), Committee on Preparation for Ministry, chair  
Rev. Robert Beringer (HR), Personnel Committee  
Rev. John Illian (Central), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, co-chair  
Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Educational Ministries Unit, chair  
Betty Prezzy Bryant (Third-Westminster), Nominating Committee, chair

#### **Call to Order.**

The Council of Elizabeth Presbytery met on Tuesday, October 9, 2007, at the United Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield, at 4:00 pm (EDT). Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison, Executive Presbyter, led the Council in a devotional reflection of when he was a teenager in Panama, remembering the “heroes and heroines” (missionaries) who stopped by their church. Emphasizing the anticipated theme of Mission at the October meeting of Presbytery, he challenged members to make a commitment of \$1 a day toward mission. He then offered a prayer.

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

1. The Council **VOTED** that Judy Wussler (Fanwood) act as Stated Clerk for this meeting.
2. The Council **VOTED** to approve the distributed agenda for this meeting, with the addition that we need to approve a clergy commissioner for Synod Assembly, October 19-20, 2007.

3. The Council **VOTED** to approve the Minutes of the Council meeting of September 11, 2007.

**Stated Clerk** (in absentia).

1. At the Meeting of Presbytery at the Dunellen Church on October 27, Susan Wright, a Partner in Mission in Africa, will give a 30-40 minute presentation. At lunch that day, there will be tables set up for a number of countries in which Presbyterian missionaries are serving. Presbyters will be invited to sit at one of those tables where their interest lies. The OSC Unit is seeking facilitators for each table. Some volunteers were: Elder Jack Paddon, India/Pakistan; Rev. Rob Martin, and maybe Rev. Ken Macari, Africa. After-lunch seminars will be led by missionaries Sue Wright and Rev. Karla Koll. Also, Muriel Ryder may lead a seminar on clean water. Rev. Wildrick (Dunellen) was made aware of needed table set-up for lunch.
2. Requests for docket time that day are: WATT 10-15 min., COM 15 min., Synod report 30 min.

**Permanent Judicial Committee** (Rev. Foltz-Morrison reporting on behalf of Rev. Paul Rack).

The PJC is now working on a case. The Chair has asked that the Presbytery grant \$4000 for expenses (this does not include attorney fees which are *pro bono*). Discussion included a suggestion that some medical expenses might be covered by the Board of Pensions, but it has to be confirmed whether or not the accused would qualify, as the accused has not worked regularly during the past few years. Treasurer, Elder Bomgaars, says there is a reserve account for support of pastors; and, according to Executive Presbyter Rev. Foltz-Morrison, the PJC has the authority to request and receive funds from that account. Elder Lowman feels that, before Council makes a decision, the PJC Chair should be asked to make a written request for the \$4000, with a breakdown of the different cost areas to where the funds will be allotted.

**Treasurer.**

1. Elder Bomgaars presented his financial report. He said that since this balance sheet that we received was prepared, more mission money has come in. He stated that 58% of the income has been collected, against 73% of the expenses. No church has disclosed that they won't be able to meet their mission commitment.
2. Elder Lowman asked Elder Noblitt to review and clarify the personnel needs for the proposed personnel budget. The people who are especially to be concerned about are the Executive Presbyter and our two Administrative Assistants because they have Board of Pensions involvement.
3. It was **VOTED** that, included in the next Presbytery packet, there should be information about each of the churches' intended mission and per capita, expected and contributed, to date.

**Business Items.**

1. Per capita: Because churches want to get on with their own budgets, it was **VOTED** that Presbytery's portion of per capita be set at \$11.76. Suggestion was made that the FDC should look at the write-up for 2007's per capita to see how that was broken down.
2. 2008 Budget: It was reported that, the way it appears on the balance sheets for 2008, we're working with a deficit budget of \$68,000 for '08. Unit chairs were encouraged to hold their expenses down, at least in the beginning of the year.

A question was raised about the expense for our bookkeeper. So far in '07 we've only spent \$3600 (he hasn't been working as many hours as he's budgeted for), and he's budgeted for \$10,000. Why? This should be raised with the Personnel Committee.

The anticipated income for investments for '08 shows \$8000. We've only received \$4000 so far in '07. How can this be? Answer: the rearranged investments of the Foundation are expected to be greater next year.

Suggestion was made that the line items should be identified more clearly so people can understand just what each category means. Presbyters have to be able to trust the figures and the reasons, and churches need to know what they're getting out of the spending. Perhaps we need to have 15 minutes or so of discussion on the floor of Presbytery when the budget is presented so input and explanation can be given.

3. Presentation of the 2008 budget to the Presbytery: It was **VOTED** that it be presented in two versions (see next paragraph) both at the October and November meetings of Presbytery and then we'd adopt the final budget in March after the pledges have been received.

The first version: Present it with the anticipated unified mission income line increased to whatever it takes to balance the budget and emphasize to the churches what they need to do from their end so we can meet this challenge.

The second version: Present it as-is, with the \$68,000 deficit.

### **Synod.**

1. Elder McLaughlan reported some misinformation about who are the Synod Commissioners to the October 19-20 Synod Assembly, because a commissioner's term is supposed to end immediately before the Assembly's meeting. Elder Judy Wussler '09 is a definite. Elder Charlotte Toke '10 was just elected at the September meeting of Presbytery. Elder Kay Hurd is listed as '07. Rev. Dottie Morris' term ends in '07. Additionally, there are vacancies for one clergy commissioner and a YAD. It was **VOTED** that Rev. Morris be recommended for re-election to serve until '10. Because of the confusion, it was felt that Elder Hurd should attend Synod Assembly as a third elder. It was **VOTED** that the Presbytery fund her attendance if necessary.
2. The Synod requests 30 minutes on the docket for October's Presbytery meeting to give reports on the most recent PPG (Presbytery Partnership Group) Meeting and on Synod Assembly. Also covered will be Synod funds that are available for education, grants and new church developments.

### **Reports.**

Trustees: Elder Nelson said that the Hispanic Fellowship is not a legal entity in New Jersey. They don't have an employer ID number. For these reasons, the Presbytery has to title and insure, under the Presbytery's name, a van that the Fellowship recently purchased. Elder Nelson says we have to come up with a proposal to clarify and deal with situations like this.

### **Adjourn.**

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn with a closing prayer by Elder Lowman at 6:40 pm (EDT).

Attest:

Elder Judith Wussler  
Stated Clerk Pro Tem