

*The Presbytery of Elizabeth  
Minutes of Council  
January 8 mmviii*

**Attendance.**

*(In an effort to clarify who is represented and who is actually attending Council, the numbers next to each name indicate the membership of Council in the current Administrative Manual.)*

Ministers

- 5. Robert Martin (Crescent Ave.), Committee on Ministry
- 13. Jeffrey Wildrick (Dunellen), At-large
- 13. John Howard (Siloam-Hope), At-large, Worship and Theology Team
- 10. Rev. Michael Granzen (Elizabeth Second), Moderator of Presbytery
- 7. Rev. Gregory Horn (Cranford), Committee on Preparation for Ministry, chair

Elders

- 1. Lee Anne Lowman (Central), Chair of Council
- 12. Alan Ford (Bethlehem), Former Moderator of Presbytery; General Assembly Council
- 11. Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield), Synod of the Northeast
- 4. Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Educational Ministries Unit, chair
- 18. Gerald Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees of Presbytery, chair
- 14. Elder Mabel Hansen (United), Presbyterian Women, chair
- 15. 17. Elder Judy Wussler (Fanwood), Committee on Representation, chair; Synod of the Northeast
- 3. Elder Robert Jacobs (Liberty Corner), Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit, chair

Ex officio

- 20. Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison, Executive Presbyter
- 23. Elder Sara Burke (Westfield), Administrative Assistant
- 19. Rev. Paul F. Rack (Bethlehem), Stated Clerk

Not present or Excused

- 21. Elder David Bomgaars (Central), Treasurer of Presbytery
- 9. Rev. Robert Beringer (HR), Personnel Committee
- 22. Joanne Noblitt (Rahway First), Financial Development Committee, chair
- 8. Betty Prezzy Bryant (Third-Westminster), Nominating Committee, chair
- 6. Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, co-chair
- 4. Elder Kathy Genus (Westfield), Education and Discipleship Unit, co-chair
- 2. Susan Gieser (Westminster), Vice-Chair of Council

**Call to Order.**

The Council of Elizabeth Presbytery met on Tuesday, January 8, 2008, at the United Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield, at 4:03 pm (EST). Rev. Rack led the Council in a devotional moment, He then offered a prayer.

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

The Four-on-four discussion had to do with what the presbytery is doing/can do about evangelism.

- 1. The Council **VOTED** to approve the distributed agenda for this meeting.

2. The Minutes of the Council meeting of December 11, 2007, will be available in February, due to Stated Clerk oversight.

#### **Stated Clerk.**

1. Questions were raised concerning a disciplinary case that is dragging on apparently interminably. The Stated Clerk was urged to contact the chair of the Investigating Committee and the Moderator of the Permanent Judicial Commission to see how the process can be made to move a little faster.
2. The Council then discussed the proposed Docket for the January 2008 Stated Meeting of Presbytery. The them will be "Christian Responses to War" and include a process led by the Worship and Theology Team and, pending the cooperation of the U.S. State Department, a pastor from one of the only Presbyterian churches in Iraq.

#### **Treasurer.**

A written report from the Treasurer was examined by the Council. It appears that the presbytery will basically break even for 2007. Appreciation was expressed to the unit chairs for holding the line in expenses over the past year.

#### **Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit.**

Elder Robert Jacobs reported on the recent history of his unit, which is a merger of two previous units. He presented goals for 2008, in evangelism, congregational vitality, and New Church Development.

The Council **VOTED** (with one negative vote) to keep in reserve any unspent money allocated to this Unit and carry it over from year to year for their future use.

A major strategic issue is identifying congregations heading into decline before it is too late. Discussion centered around the idea of congregational life-cycles and when it is most effective to seek transformation. The comment was made that struggling churches should not be written off but viewed in terms of their own context and potential.

#### **2007-2008 Calendar.**

Jill Hudson will be here for the May meeting. Her discussion topic will be "Healthy Churches." EDU is working on someone for the June meeting, the focus of which is on youth.

#### **Executive Presbyter.**

Bob reported that the death of Rev. John Luyben was a suicide. Accounts have been set up by the presbytery to assist the family. John was not serving in a church so he was off the Board of Pensions plan and not eligible for some of its benefits.

#### **Letter to Churches re: Service to Presbytery.**

Elder Lowman presented a draft letter urging elders (and non-ordained people) in local churches to participate in the life and work of the presbytery. The Council affirmed the letter without a vote.

#### **Moderator.**

Rev. Granzen brought a piece of the Berlin Wall to remind us of how quickly and surprisingly things can change. He talked about things he learned at the Moderators' Conference in Louisville. He also attended some installations and ordinations, and is looking forward to a handful more.

**Vice-Moderator.**

Elder McLaughlin asked for a communication to be sent about the upcoming ordinations and installations. We had a discussion about it at presbytery in which it was made clear that these are *presbytery*, not just local church, events. Therefore, members of the presbytery need to be encouraged to attend.

**New Business.**

Rev. Horn announced his participation, with two others from our presbytery, in "Repairing the Breach," a conference at Fuller Seminary co-sponsored by Auburn Seminary.

**Adjourn.**

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn with a closing prayer by Rev. Martin at 6:10 pm (EST).

Attest:

Rev. Paul F. Rack  
Stated Clerk