

**Presbytery of Elizabeth
Minutes of Council
October 13, 2009**

Attendance:

Ministers.

Peter Hofstra (Perth Amboy), Financial Development Committee, chair
Roberta Arrowsmith (Connecticut Farms), Cte on Preparation for Ministry, co-chair
Jeffrey Wildrick (Dunellen), At-large
Robert Martin (United), Committee on Ministry, chair

Elders.

Alan Ford (Bethlehem), General Assembly Council
Gerard Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees of Presbytery, chair
Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, chair
Susie Krivenko (Rahway First), Vice-Moderator of Presbytery
Betty Prezzy Bryant (Third-Westminster), Nominating Committee, chair
Judy Wussler (Fanwood), Synod of the Northeast
Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Education and Discipleship Unit, chair
Sue Gieser (Westminster), Council, chair
Brenda Johnson (Siloam-Hope), Committee on Representation, chair

Ex officio.

Dave Bomgaars (Central), Treasurer
Paul Rack (Bethlehem), Stated Clerk

Excused.

Amy Aaroe, Lawrence Finn, John Howard, Sara Burke

Minutes:

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of Elizabeth Presbytery was held on Tuesday, October 13, 2009, at the United Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield.

The meeting was opened at 4:35 pm (EDT) with devotional time, based on Jonah's prayer from inside the fish, and prayer by Susie Krivenko.

The Council **VOTED** to approve the distributed agenda for today's meeting.

The Council **VOTED** to approve the distributed Minutes of the September Council meeting.

Council Chair.

Sue Gieser urged chairs to submit written monthly unit reports to Council. Presbytery needs to have a better idea of what our units and committees are doing. We even need to know when units are not meeting. It was also mentioned that these reports should be submitted electronically in advance, so as to avoid the unnecessary killing of trees. This is

also an issue with documents for the presbytery meetings; they should not keep going out piecemeal up to the day of the meeting.

Stated Clerk.

The Stated Clerk reported that a site has been secured for the November Stated Meeting of presbytery: Fanwood.

He also indicated that he is working on revisions to the administrative manual which would further define the concept and practice of "teams."

Treasurer.

David Bomgaars, the Treasurer of Presbytery, presented his written report. We have a \$33K positive cash flow at this time. We are expecting some appreciation in our invested funds shortly. We are underspent while tracking close to the expected income. Checking balances are okay. We expect to end the year. The Council **VOTED** to receive the report of the Treasurer.

Discussion Items.

1. Future Presbytery Meetings.

The calendar is now wide open after November, 2009. Ideas floated for themes are:

- leadership development,
- the theological roots of worship styles,
- preparing for an IEP/mission study,
- an interactive education and information session on how we relate to the presbytery (all day Saturday?),
- how to welcome and retain visitors to churches,
- stewardship, cultivating giving in churches,
- information re: the proposed new Form of Government,
- invite church mission chairs to share ideas....

The Council **VOTED** to work on an informational workshop model for the January meeting. (1) A mission component would be covered by OSC focusing on the New Hope Initiative application process, (2) WATT would be able to do something on theology and worship, (3) Jeff Wildrick is willing to do church growth and discipleship based on his work in Dunellen, (4) EDU could put something together with Bobbie Arrowsmith and Susie Krivenko, (5) and something on financial ideas maybe with the Foundation and/or the Board of Pensions and our own treasurer and bookkeeper. This would be advertized presbytery-wide. It would probably be in the afternoon, after lunch. The council **VOTED** to have two sessions, lunch ending at 1 and the presbytery meeting not going beyond 3 pm.

The Council **VOTED** to request a written report from our Synod commissioners at the November Stated Meeting.

2. Committee Activities.

Rob Martin reported on what COM is doing. Their Minutes are kept in the office of the Stated Clerk. They are also working on their manual.

Betty Prezzy Bryant reported on the activities of the Nominating Committee. They usually meet by e-mail, but have some significant nominations coming up, like GA commissioners and a new minister Vice-Moderator. Nominations was reminded to be aware of issues of representation.

Gerry Nelson reported on the Trustees, who meet roughly monthly. They focus on property issues. They have nearly a full complement, but currently need a minister member. Gerry himself maxes off the Trustees at the end of his current term. They do keep minutes which are in the office of the chair. They distribute most written material electronically, and hold electronic meetings when they need to.

Brenda Johnson has only just taken over the Committee on Representation, and hasn't yet held a meeting.

Jack Paddon reported on the OSC unit's activities, which are mainly administering New Hope Initiative grants to churches. The word needs to get out about this. He is representing presbytery at various local church mission fairs as well.

Helen Mosley reported on EDU. They met in September. They focus on empowering youth. They want to hold a training event for teachers and offices on April 17. The Council **VOTED** to approve this date and event. It will be funded through their budget. They need volunteers for this event and hope to announce it at the November Stated Meeting. The Youth Triennium is coming up in July 20-24, 2010, with a theme of "For Such a Time As This." EDU's minutes are held by their secretary and will be communicated with the presbytery office.

Alan Ford reported on his work with the General Assembly Mission Council.

George Curtis reported on the work of the Personnel Committee. They have been completing the reviews of the presbytery staff, including personal meetings. Minutes are kept by the Personnel chair. They need a minister member of their committee; right now it is four elders. They are looking forward to getting an IEP on board and developing the staffing model.

3. Budget 2010.

Peter Hofstra reported on the current state of the presbytery budget for 2010. They are moving away from a "business" model and towards a "stewardship" model. The committee needs budget requests by October 27. They want to hold expenses to the 2009 level. Presbytery approves a line-item budget. The plan is to set aside money for each unit and wait for specific applications. Some line-items are already set up. The Council **VOTED** to present this budget to presbytery as a First Reading as presented by

Peter with some minor changes. Some money will have to be appropriated from the Missions side of the budget to pay for part of the IEP salary. The interpretive material will go out as presented.

Vice-Moderator.

Susie reported on the recent meeting of WATT. The Council **VOTED** to authorize the celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper (by intinction) at the November Stated Meeting of presbytery. Roberta Arrowsmith is preaching at worship.

New Business.

The Council will not be meeting again until December 8, 2009. The Stated Meeting of presbytery is scheduled for November 17 (not the usual 4th Tuesday, because of the Thanksgiving holiday).

Adjourn.

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:00 pm, with prayer by Peter Hofstra.

Attest:

Paul F. Rack
Stated Clerk