

**Presbytery of Elizabeth
Draft Minutes of Council
February 9 MMX**

Attendance:

Ministers present:

John Howard (Siloam-Hope), At-large, Vice-chair of Council
Lawrence Finn (MaL), Evangelism and Church Vitality Unit, chair
Rob Martin (Crescent Avenue), Committee on Ministry, chair
Howard Bryant (HR), Moderator of Presbytery
Jeffrey Wildrick (Dunellen), At-large

Elders present:

Judy Wussler (Fanwood), Synod of the Northeast
Amy Aaroe (Cranford), Presbyterian Women, President
Alan Ford (Bethlehem), General Assembly Council
Gerard Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees of Presbytery, chair
Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), Outreach and Social Concerns Unit, Co-chair
Susie Krivenko (Rahway First), Vice-Moderator of Presbytery
Betty Prezzy Bryant (Third-Westminster), Nominating Committee, chair
Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Education and Discipleship Unit
Sue Gieser (Westminster), Council chair
Warren Braunwarth (Central), At-large
Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield), Former-Moderator
Brenda Johnson (Siloam-Hope), Committee on Representation, chair

Present ex officio:

Dave Bomgaars (Central), Treasurer of Presbytery
Paul Rack (Bethlehem), Stated Clerk
Sara Burke (Westfield), Administrative Assistant

Excused/absent.

Roberta Arrowsmith (Connecticut Farms), Cte on Preparation for Ministry, co-chair
Peter Hofstra (Perth Amboy), Financial Development Committee, chair
George Curtis (Basking Ridge), Personnel Committee, chair

Minutes:

The regular monthly meeting of the Council of Elizabeth Presbytery was held on Tuesday, February 9, 2010, at the United Presbyterian Church, in Plainfield.

The meeting was opened at 4:33 pm (EDT) with devotional time by Paul Rack.

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

The Council **VOTED** to approve the distributed Minutes of the December 8, 2009, Council meeting, and **VOTED** to approve the distributed Minutes of the January 13, 2010, Special Council meeting.

Council Vice Chair.

John Howard chaired the meeting. (Sue Gieser was announced as still en route.) John noted that he attended installation of Frank Muse, which was a wonderful experience.

Stated Clerk.

The Council **VOTED** to ratify the electronic vote taken prior to the last presbytery meeting, which authorized a special offering to be taken for Haiti at the presbytery meeting.

Treasurer.

Dave Bomgaars reported, presented the most recent balance sheet. He noted that the Audit Committee has begun its work. Looking at the Mission Pledge tabulation sheet, it was pointed out that we had several decreases, leaving the presbytery \$65K down compared to last year. We also looked at the per capita results for 2009. On the good side, the mission money paid in 2009 exceeded the pledges. Council **VOTED** to remit the unpaid 2009 per capita to GA and Synod, \$11,857 total.

Discussion Items.

1. Stated Meetings.

Council members commended the folks who put together the informational workshops at the January presbytery meeting. There was a concern that this might raise expectations for future meetings. It appears to be the small group format that is the attraction, plus the fact that the workshops were compelling enough that people wanted to attend. Currently we do not have time for such consultations in most of our meetings.

2. EDU Grant Application.

The Council **VOTED** to approve the application (\$10,500) which would assist youth and advisors in attending the Youth Triennium.

Moderator.

-- Howard presented a record of his itinerations among our congregations.

-- He has made several attempts to get new members for the NCDC. There should be modifications to the commission's warrant: One year renewable terms, and allowing seven or more members. The Council **VOTED** to postpone consideration of these and other changes until the next meeting of Council.

Vice-Moderator.

Susie announced that Greg Albert will preach at the March presbytery meeting. Someone from the New Providence worship team will be meeting with WATT at its next meeting.

Interim Executive Presbyter.

Greg reported on his intention to meet with all pastors and associate pastors, and to worship in a different church each Sunday, and to sit with every committee/unit in the next few months. He also pointed out that the presbytery actually did very well in 2009 in terms of finances, which should be celebrated, especially in light of the fact that the year was so bad generally in the economy.

Administrative Assistant.

Sara Burke announced that the new computers were now installed in the presbytery office.

Continuing Business.

The moderator said he intends to consult with the new IEP concerning the two members he is authorized to appoint to the committee overseeing the disposition of assets from the closed Greystone church.

Reports.

COM- Rob Martin said we have one possible minister-member coming to presbytery. The COM has approved the request of Isaac Ahn to dissolve his call to the Elizabeth Korean church.

CPM- Paul Rack noted that the annual consultation with inquirers and candidates has been done.

COR – Brenda Johnson announced that the committee has met and is working on its annual Synod report. They will have a written report in March for the presbytery.

EDU- Helen Mosley invited Greg to the unit's next meeting. They need 10 minutes to announce and promote April event.

ECVU – Lawrence Finn noted that the unit needs no docket time. He presented his written report, which the Council **VOTED** to receive. Has also invited Greg to the next meeting.

FDC – Barbara McLaughlan reported that the committee's name change is coming up for a second reading at presbytery. A second dedication of mission pledges is planned for the March presbytery meeting. They will need ten minutes on the docket.

Nominating – Betty Prezzy Bryant announced that the committee is working on its report to presbytery, and that they will need five minutes on the docket.

OSCU – Jack Paddon noted that they were beginning to receive New Hope Initiative applications. The unit hopes to present slate of recommended grants to agencies outside the presbytery. They need no time at presbytery.

Personnel – The Council received a written report from the Personnel Committee, which the Council **VOTED** to receive.

PW – Amy Aaroe reported that the Spring Gathering will be held on April 20 at the Crescent Ave. church, the theme being: "Simplicity." The PW may be coming to the Council in April for official authorization to set up "diaper bank" to benefit the Elizabethport Center.

GAMC – Alan Ford noted that the GAMC will meet in two weeks to start to get ready for GA. In May he plans on reporting to the presbytery what is going on.

Synod – Judy Wussler reported that the Synod PPG of which we are a part will meet in March in Hightstown. She will bring a report to the May meeting of presbytery.

Trustees – Gerry Nelson had no report. The Trustees will have two items for the consent agenda in March.

Council Chair.

Sue Gieser informed the Council that two representatives from the Synod will be coming to Council in April, mainly to talk about the latest rendition of its restructuring. Sue will distribute four questions from them for Council's preliminary pondering. The Council **VOTED** to ratify this invitation.

New Business.

-- The Council was informed that the Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC) needs a pastor and an elder; the Nominating Committee knows.

-- It was suggested that we get into the habit of celebrating pastoral anniversaries at presbytery. (Jeff Ebert, Jupi Gomes, Ray Roberts have celebrated 25 years in ministry.) The Council **VOTED** to celebrate five-year increments of ordination or service in a church of our presbytery, annually, at the November (Thanksgiving) presbytery meeting.

Adjourn.

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn with prayer by Sue at 5:52 PM.

Attest:

Paul F. Rack