

**The Presbytery of Elizabeth
Special Meeting of Council
Draft Minutes
July 13 MMX**

Attendance:

Ministers Present:

Bebb Wheeler Stone (Linden, Calvin), Vice-Moderator of Presbytery
Howard Bryant (HR), Past Moderator of Presbytery
James Thomas (Iselin), Committee on Ministry, chair
Roberta Arrowsmith (Connecticut Farms), Committee on Preparation for
Ministry, co-chair
Jill Kitsko (Edison, Oak Tree), Evangelism & Church Vitality Unit, chair

Elders Present:

Susan Gieser (Westminster), Council chair
Susie Krivenko (Rahway, First), Moderator of Presbytery
Alicia Tamilio (Bethlehem), Education & Discipleship Unit, chair
Skip Winter (Cranford), Outreach & Social Concerns, chair
David Rogers (Westfield), Trustees, President
Janet Bentley (Basking Ridge), Personnel Committee, chair
Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), At-large
Judy Wussler (Fanwood), Synod of the Northeast
Alan Ford (Bethlehem), General Assembly Council

Present *ex officio*:

Sara Burke (Westfield), Administrative Assistant
Greg Albert (staff), Interim Executive Presbyter

Excused/absent:

Warren Braunwarth (Central), At-large
John Howard (Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope), Vice-Moderator of Council
Brenda Johnson (Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope), Committee on Representation
Cynthia Cochran-Carney (Scotch Plains, Willow Grove), At-large
Amy Aaroe (Cranford), Presbyterian Women
Paul Rack (staff), Stated Clerk
David Bomgaars (Central), Treasurer of Presbytery
Peter Hofstra (Perth Amboy), Stewardship Committee, chair

Minutes:

A special meeting of the Council of Elizabeth Presbytery was held on Tuesday, July 13, 2010, at the United Presbyterian Church in Plainfield for the purposes of

- determining whether to engage in conversation with the Monmouth Presbytery regarding the sharing of services, and
- determining whether to launch a short term WATT study group.

The meeting began at 5:00 p.m. (EDT) with devotions by Howard Bryant on the topic of leadership. He said that leaders should be more like water than lava. Whereas lava will push against an obstacle or burn it away and finally end up solid and immovable, water sends out tentacles exploring every possibility and does not turn around and reverse itself unless it can go no further.

Stated Business:

It was moved, seconded and **VOTED** that the Elizabeth Presbyter enter into conversation with one or more neighboring presbyteries regarding sharing services. The motion passed with one abstention.

- We have approached the Monmouth Presbytery about this, but we may also want to consider shared services with the Presbyteries of New Brunswick, Newton and/or Newark. Examples of shared services might be sharing a Presbytery Executive, staff, resource center or office. Any changes to the way we do things now would have to have a 2/3 majority vote by each presbytery. Modification of Presbytery boundaries might even be a possibility - that would have to be approved by General Assembly. We would certainly not rush into anything. We need to trust God and the Holy Spirit more than the bankbook.

It was moved, seconded and **VOTED** that the Elizabeth Presbytery launch a short-term group to study the purpose and function of WATT (Worship and Theology Team). This group would be composed of three people: at least one elder and one clergy, all members of Presbytery Council. The motion passed with all of Council voting in the affirmative.

- The initiation of the idea of an evaluation came from WATT itself via a memo signed by six of its members. Rev. Bobbie Arrowsmith, Elder Walter Braunwarth and Elder Alan Ford will comprise the short-term group.

It was moved, seconded and **VOTED** that the vice-moderator of Presbytery be temporarily relieved from the responsibility of overseeing WATT until that relationship is clarified, and that the youth participating in Triennium be invited to lead worship at the September meeting of Presbytery. The motion passed with one abstention.

Adjourn:

The Council **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:40 p.m. (EDT), with prayer by Bobbie Arrowsmith.

Elder Judith Wussler
Acting Stated Clerk