

The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Presbyterian Church (USA)

619th Stated Meeting

March 27 MMVII

First Presbyterian Church

Avenel, NJ

Attendance.

Congregation	Minister		Elder	
Avenel (2)	Charles Baier (I)	P	Wayne Dubin Charles Kurowsky	P P
Basking Ridge (4)	W. Stuart Ritter Pat Weikart (A) Robert Beringer (TSAP)	P P E	Elaine Coulthart Marilynn Anderson Debbie Schaub	P P P A
Bedminster, Lamington (2)	Krystin Granberg (I) [Vacant (A)]	A		A A
Berkeley Heights, Westminster (2)	Deirdre Greenwood White (TS)	P	Beverly Sonnenberg	P A
Bernardsville (2)	Chester Kim	P	Phyllis Anderson	A A
Carteret (2)	Bradley Crump	P	Charlotte Toke	P A
Clark, Osceola (2)	John Naugle	P	Jean Rudyk	P A
Clinton (2)	Tim Harrison (C) Karen Harrison (C)	P E	Lisa Lomauro Bill Warner	P P
Cranford (3)	Gregory Horn Valencia Norman (A)	P A	Arthur Winter, Jr. Jeff Nichols	P P
Dunellen (2)	Jeff Hayes Wildrick Silvio DelCampo (E)	P A	Steven Geiger Mary Hicks	P P
Edison, Community (2)	Kenneth Macari	P	Robert Siepmann	P A
Edison, Lord of Hope (2)	Chang Woo Lee	P	Jang Ho Park	A A
Edison, Oak Tree (2)	Rick Oppelt	A		A A

Elizabeth, First (2)	Corina Rodriguez (SS)	P	Michael Bradley Boris Abulevsko	P P
Elizabeth, Second (2)	Michael Granzen	P	Linwood Bagby Virginia Bodden	P P
Elizabeth, Third-Westminster (2)	Birda Ferguson (I)	P	Betty Prezzy Bryant Margaret Robinson	P P
Elizabeth, Greystone (2)	Hector Seda (D)	E	Margaret Dauble	A A
Elizabeth, Korean (2)	Joon Sik Kim Isaac Ahn (A)	P P		A A
Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope (2)	John Howard	P	Brenda Johnson Helen Mosley	P P
Fanwood (2)	Paul F. Rack (I) Elizabeth Anderson- Domer (TSAP)	P P	Judy Wussler	P A
Fords (2)	Douglas Kurtz (SS)	A		A A
Garwood	Gary Wetzel	E		A A
Iselin	James F. Thomas (D)	P	Sue Figueroa	P
Liberty Corner (3)	Steve McConnell Anne Havrilla (A) Anita Miller Bell (TS)	A A A		A A A
Linden	William Weaver	P	Meredith Meeker	P
Linden, Calvin	David Krotchko	E	John Arrowwood	P
Martinsville, Christ	Susan Joseph	P	Rayna Robb	P
Metuchen (2)	Samuel Massengill Douglas Grote (IAP)	P A	Mary Kay Dangremond Betty Seidner	P P
Middlesex	Neal Presa	P	Ruth Mikalonis	P
Mountainside, Community	Chris Belden	P	Marjory Bradshaw	P
New Providence (2)	Jeffrey Ebert Michael Flavin (A) Ian Rankine (A)	A A E	Richard Griggs	P A
No. Plainfield, Watchung Ave.	Brooks Smith	P	Doug Boleyn	P
Perth Amboy	Peter Hofstra	P	Joan Wisniewski	P
Pittstown, Bethlehem	[Vacant]	-		A
Plainfield, Bethel	[Vacant]	-	Paul Broady	P
Plainfield, Crescent Avenue	Robert Martin	E		A

Plainfield, United	Victor Aloyo, Jr. (TS)	P		A
Pluckemin (2)	Jeffrey Gibelius	P	Stuart Race Lynn Santulli	E E
Rahway, First	Branwen Cook	P	Al Shipley	P
Rahway, Second	Douglas Muller	P	Dana Marsh	P
Roselle, First	Karen Chamis	P		A
Scotch Plains, Willow Grove	C Cochran-Carney	A		A
Springfield	Victoria M. Ney	P	Robert Halsey	A
Summit, Central (3)	S. Allen Foster (I) John Illian (A) Rebecca Laird (A)	P P E	Gretchen Braunwarth Pat Haddon Emily Campbell	P P P
Union, Connecticut Farms	Howard Bryant (I)	P	Dave Garrabrants	P
Union, Townley	Christopher Taylor	P	Lois Tangowski	P
Warren, Trinity United	Elsie A. Rhodes	P	Lynn Merrill	P
Westfield (4)	Raymond Roberts Tina McCormick (A) Helen Beglin (TSAP)	P E P	Richard Carlson Claudia Heffner Marybeth Lapham Jon Peterson	P P P P
Woodbridge	Robert Boyar	P	Al Amatucci	P

Specialized Ministers in Other Service of This Church (G-11.0410)

Leslie Foltz-Morrison (NJ Interfaith Council on Disaster)	E
Robert Foltz-Morrison (Presbytery Staff)	P
William Ross Forbes (Board of Pensions)	E
Jupiaci Gomes (Millennium Presbyterian Community)	P
Linda Owens (Bound Brook PC, New Brunswick Presbytery)	A
Mercy Rumengan (Metuchen Indonesian Fellowship)	P

Specialized Ministers in Service Beyond the Jurisdiction of this Church (G-11.0411)

Erika Beer-Gerhard (Pastoral Counselor)	A
Leonard Bethel (Rutgers University)	A
Patricia Briegs (Therapist)	A
Sally Campbell (St. Luke's Hospital)	P
Kathryn Henry (Peapack Reformed Church)	P
Linda Hora (NJ Veterans' Home)	P
Jennifer T. Hrynyk (Community Congregational Ch, Short Hills)	P

Jill Hedlund Kitsko (Ogden Memorial, Chatham)	P
Dorothy Morris (Norwood Terrace)	A
Arthur Pace (U.S. Army Chaplain)	E
Mark Smith (U.S. Navy Chaplain)	A

Ministers-at-Large (G-11.0406b)

(Charles Baier) <i>see Avenel, First above</i>	-
Michael Burkley	A
Jennifer Butler (Maryland)	E
Reid Byers	A
Matthew Camlin (Pennsylvania)	E
Jeffrey Cochran-Carney	A
Robert Davis (Florida)	E
Lawrence Finn III	A
(Deirdre Greenwood White) <i>see Berkeley Heights, Westminster above</i>	-
Diane Hoppe-Hugo	E
Calvin Hsu	P
Fernando Jensen (Florida)	E
Winter Lantz (North Carolina)	E
John Luyben	E
Jeff Neufeld (Georgia)	E
John Oh (Florida)	E
Maureen Paterson	E
Janet Vane Pederson	P
Barbara Tipton (New York)	E
W. Alfred Tisdale, Jr. (Connecticut)	E
James Verser	A

Retired Ministers

(Helen Beglin) <i>see Berkeley Heights, Westminster above</i>	-
(Robert Beringer) <i>see Basking Ridge above</i>	-
Frederick Black	P
Russell Block	E

George Bonnell	E
Charles Brackbill	E
Keith Brown (Pennsylvania)	E
(Howard Bryant) <i>see Union, Connecticut Farms above</i>	-
Ray Downs (Georgia)	E
John Dunlap, Jr.	E
Thomas Evans	E
Else Farr (California)	E
(S. Allen Foster) <i>see Summit, Central above</i>	-
Joseph Fowler (New York)	E
Joseph Garlic	E
Leonard Grant	E
Charles Hale	E
Abraham Luckhoff (Georgia)	E
Charles Maxell (Michigan)	E
John Millar (Manitoba Canada)	E
Hibbert Moss	E
Robert Newbold (Texas)	E
S. Lorenzo Shannon (Indiana)	E
Timothy J.J. Shu	E
Joyce Stedge-Fowler (New York)	E
John Stephenson	E
John Talbot (Florida)	E
Elmer Talcott	P
Je Sun Yoo	E
Edward Younken	E

Elders Serving on Council

Alan Ford (Bethlehem), Moderator	P
Susan Gieser (Berkeley Heights), COM	P
Mabel Hansen (United), PW	A
Robert Jacobs (Liberty Corner), ECVU	P

Lee Anne Lowman (Central), Vice-Chair	P
Mr. Benji Martin (Plainfield, Crescent Ave.), YAD	E
Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), EDU	P
Gerard Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees	P
Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner) OSCU	E
Blanche Schaffer (Central), MaL	P
Judith Wussler (Fanwood), COR & Synod of the NE Rep	P

Elders Who Have Served as Moderator

Eunice Baer (Oak Tree)	P
John Cavicchia (Fanwood)	A
Maggie Chilton (Central)	P
Bonnie Ruggiero (Willow Grove)	P
Michael Young (Bethlehem)	P

Corresponding & Temporary Members

Rev. Victor Aloyo, Jr. (Plainfield, Iglesia) Presbytery of NYC	A
Rev. Anita Miller Bell (Liberty Corner) Philadelphia Presbytery	A
Rev. Branwen L. Cook (Rahway, First) UCC	P
Rev. Murv L. Gardiner, Philadelphia Presbytery	P
Rev. Krystin Granberg (Lamington) Presbytery of NYC	A
Rev. Rebecca Laird (Summit, Central) Church of the Nazarene	E

Others in Attendance

Sara Burke (staff), Elizabeth Quintero (staff), Cecelia Quintero (staff volunteer), Betty Prezzy Bryant (Third-Westminster), Betty Stauffer (Islelin), Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield), Aida Alfieri (Iseiln), Michale Socia (Johnsonburg), Warren Braunwarth (Central), Ray Bostwick (Bethel), Michael Hora (Woodbridge), Nicholas Bradshaw (Mountainside), Kathleen Whitted (Siloam Hope), Luis Guerra (United), Betty Sharret (Fanwood), Dr. Richard Sharrett (Fanwood), Dr. Richard Levao (Bloomfield College), Rev. Janice Ammon (New York City Presbytery), Rev. David Jahnke (Mission Presbytery), Rev. Yoon Park (Presbytery of Western North Carolina), Rev. Joseph K. Yoon (Presbytery of New Brunswick)

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Minutes.

Gathering Time. (Presbyters were invited to bring a “brown-bag” dinner and meet for informal talks.)

1. Latino Network
2. Meet our incoming ministers!
3. Presentation from Bloomfield College

The Presbytery at Worship.

The presbytery gathered for a time of worship which featured a sermon by Rev. Howard Bryant (Connecticut Farms) and the Jubilee Choir from the Bethel church. Rev. Bryant’s sermon was on “The Confessions of 1967 Revisited.”

Moderator’s Call to Order.

The 619th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth was held on Tuesday, March 27, 2007, at the First Presbyterian Church, in Avenel, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 7:17 pm (EDT), and opened with prayer by Elder Alan Ford (Bethlehem), the Moderator of Presbytery.

A quorum was present.

1. The Moderator introduced the Host Pastor, Rev. Charles Baier (Avenel), who welcomed the presbytery. He spoke of the mission and history of the church. Rev. Baier also reviewed the facility.
2. First time Commissioners were introduced from the Westfield, Metuchen, Third-Westminster, Iselin, Westminster, Elizabeth First, Avenel, Basking Ridge, Perth Amboy, Clinton, Westfield, and Christ churches. Elder Virginia Bodden was introduced and the presbytery expressed its appreciation for her service, now that she is stepping down after 23 years as clerk of session at Second Elizabeth.
3. The presbytery **VOTED** to seat Rev. Branwen Cook (Rahway First) as a Temporary Member, and Rev. Murv L. Gardiner (Philadelphia Presbytery) as a Corresponding Member, for this meeting.

Stated Clerk.

Rev. Paul F. Rack (Fanwood), the Stated Clerk of presbytery, gave his report.

He introduced and explained the following Consent Agenda,

1. The Minutes of the 618th Stated Meeting (January 27, 2007) of presbytery. (See Appendix I.)
2. The Docket for today’s meeting, minus the reports of the Treasurer and Auditors, which will be presented in May. Also, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry will be bringing an Inquirer to be advanced to Candidate status.
3. Excuses were granted to the following minister-members of presbytery:
Weikart (Basking Ridge), K. Harrison (Clinton), Seda (Greystone), Wetzel (Garwood), Krotchko (Calvin), Rankine (New Providence), Martin (Crescent Ave), Laird (Central), McCormick (Westfield); L Foltz-Morrison, Forbes, Hoppe-Hugo, Paterson, Verser

Excuses were granted to the following elder commissioners of presbytery:
Mr. B Martin (Crescent Ave), Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner)
4. The Annual Statistical Report was presented for information to the presbytery. (See Appendix II.)

The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the items on the Consent Agenda.

The Stated Clerk introduced Mike Socia, who is the Executive Director of Camp Johnsonburg. Mr. Socia is available to presbyters who may have questions about the camp. Other announcements were made regarding activities in local churches. Prayer for Rev. Isaiah Jones offered by Rev. John Howard (Siloam-Hope).

Race and Reconciliation Process.

The presbytery entered into a process of reflection on race and reconciliation, as part of our celebration of the 40th anniversary of the Confession of 1967. The panelists for this time were Rev. Helen Beglin (HR), Rev. Howard Bryant (Connecticut Farms), Rev. Douglas Muller (Rahway Second), and Rev. Brooks Smith (Watchung Avenue), who introduced the process. Each panelist brought a unique perspective on this issue.

Rev. Beglin shared memories of working in the civil rights movement in her home town of Birmingham, Alabama, during the early 1960's. Rev. Howard reflected on experiences of racism growing up in southern New Jersey; and even in 2001, when his house was vandalized with racial epithets... and the perpetrators were given "house-arrest." Rev. Muller talked of his time in South Africa, witnessing the shooting of children by the police. He went on to be a pastor active in the anti-Apartheid movement which eventually freed that country, when he got to know Archbishop Desmond Tutu. Rev. Smith concluded with memories of Martin Luther King's inspiring him to participate in "Freedom Summer," in Alabama, including time with Fannie Lou Hamer.

Rev. Bryant then led the presbytery in the Lord's Prayer, as hands were joined.

Council.

The report of Council's Personnel Committee was given by Rev. Robert Beringer (HR). He presented for a second reading the revised Executive Presbyter Job Description, and interpreted it for the presbytery. The new Job Description reflects a different vision for the presbytery. The position is now defined as more hand-on interaction with local churches, and less time devoted to administration. The presbytery to approve this Job Description. (See Appendix III.)

Task Force on Examinations.

Rev. Susan Joseph (Christ), chair, presented for a first reading the report of the Task Force on Examinations. The Task Force members came forward with a brief baptismal liturgy and a singing of "Wade in the Water" — Elder Warren Braunwarth (Central), Rev. Karen Chamis (Roselle), Rev. Neal Presa (Middlesex), Rev. Sam Massengill (Metuchen), Elder Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), Rev. Bradley Crump (Carteret), and Rev. John Luyben (MaL), (and Elder Kay Hurd (Trinity United) who was not present) -- have been working for several months. Their report comes with several recommendations. (See Appendix IV.) The Task Force members answered questions and listened to comments regarding their recommendations by the presbytery. Their intent is to be guided by the responses and return to presbytery in May with a final set of recommendations which will be put to a vote.

Committee on Representation.

Elder Judy Wussler (Fanwood), chair, with the assistance of a puppet named Pressie, reported on the results of our progress in increasing our inclusivity. Our presbytery is doing well, relative to the rest of the Synod, in terms of balance along several axes. She also made an appeal on behalf of the Nominating Committee for people to serve.

Nominating Committee.

Elder Betty Prezzy Bryant (Third -Westminster), chair, presented the report of the Nominating Committee. They brought the following nominations:

<u>Moderator of Presbytery</u> Rev. Michael Granzen (Elizabeth Second)	2009	
<u>Education and Discipleship Unit</u> Elder Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope)	2010	Chair
<u>Presbytery Trustees</u> Elder Gerard Nelson (Liberty Corner)	2010	President

She also appealed for folks to serve in presbytery units, an appeal that was underscored by Rev. Greg Horn (Cranford).

Remarks from the President of Bloomfield College.

Richard Levao, the President of Bloomfield College, made some brief remarks about the college, which is the only Presbyterian-related college in our Synod. The student-body is 50% African-American; they are getting many students from Korea, and anticipate receiving some from Peru next year. There is a Liberal Arts focus as well as one on Technical skills.

Executive Presbyter.

Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison, Executive Presbyter, gave his report. He senses a lot of engagement going on in this meeting, which is one of the attractive things about our Presbyterian way of doing things. He also challenged the presbytery to assist him in the implications of his new Job Description, since it is based on participation with the churches. Rev. Foltz-Morrison also thanked the presbytery for the prayers and support for him and his wife, Rev. Leslie Foltz-Morrison, as she continues to recover from a serious leg injury. He announced several of our far-flung retired ministers who have recently entered into the communion of the saints. They will be celebrated at the May meeting. Finally, he announced he is in contact with an Iraqi pastor in this country who is looking for mission work among us.

Moderator/Townley Administrative Commission.

The Moderator, Elder Alan Ford, introduced Rev. Peter Hofstra (Perth Amboy), the chair of the Townley Administrative Commission. Rev. Hofstra presented the Final Report of this Commission. (See Appendix V.) The presbytery **VOTED** to dismiss the Administrative Commission with thanks. Rev. Hofstra offered a prayer.

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

Rev. Victoria Ney (Springfield), chair, presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

1. The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the final assessment of Candidate, Jorge Betancurt (Plainfield Hispanic Fellowship), and certify him as ready to receive a call.
2. Rev. Ney then presented Inquirer Rick Hutton (New Providence). He came forward to read his Statement of Sense of Call, and respond to questions from the presbytery. The presbytery **VOTED** to advance Rick Hutton to the status of Candidate. He responded to the required Constitutional Questions from the Moderator, who offered a prayer with others from the New Providence church.

The Committee on Ministry.

Elder Susan Gieser (Westminster), chair, presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

1. Elder Gieser presented Rev. David Jahnke (Mission Presbytery), candidate for the position of Pastor at the Fanwood church. Rev. Jahnke presented his written Statement of Faith and responded to questions from the presbytery. A congregational meeting was held on March 25, 2007, at which Rev. Jahnke received a unanimous vote. The presbytery **VOTED** to receive Rev. Jahnke as a member and approve the following Terms of Call, effective June 1, 2007. Members of the Fanwood church came forward for prayer with Rev. Jahnke and the Moderator.

Terms of Call

Cash Salary	\$40,000
Supplement for Social Security Tax	\$ 5,279
Foregone interest on below-market loan	<u>\$ 0</u>
<i>TOTAL income reported to IRS</i>	<i>\$45,279</i>

Housing [Manse]	\$24,000
Utilities - Allowance	\$ 5,000
Full Medical, pension, disability, And death benefit coverage	\$21,735

Other Benefits:

Medical/Dental Reimbursement Allowance	\$ 1,000
Paid Vacation Leave	One Month (including 5 Sundays)
Paid Continuing Education Leave	Two Weeks (including 2 Sundays; not cumulative)
Moving expenses paid by Fanwood Presbyterian Church	
One time decorating allowance	\$ 2,000

It is understood that the following expenses of ministry will be reimbursed through an accountable plan:

Professional Travel expense	\$ 2,500
at \$0.485 per mile (IRS allowable rate)	
Continuing Education Reimbursement allowance	<u>\$ 1,700</u>
Total	\$101,214

AA/EEO Guidelines were followed.

2. Elder Gieser presented Rev. Janice Ammon (New York City Presbytery), who is asking to be received as a Minister at Large. She presented her Statement of Faith and responded to questions from the presbytery. The presbytery **VOTED** to receive Rev. Ammon as a member.
3. Rev. Yoon Park (Western North Carolina Presbytery), who is asking to be received as a Minister at Large. He presented his Statement of Faith and responded to questions from the presbytery. The presbytery **VOTED** to receive Rev. Park as a member.
4. Rev. Joseph Yoon (New Brunswick Presbytery), who is asking to be received as a Minister at Large. He presented his Statement of Faith and responded to questions from the presbytery. The presbytery **VOTED** to receive Rev. Yoon as a member. Rev. Yoon will be working with the Ambassadors Presbyterian Fellowship, in Edison.

The Moderator offered a prayer with Revs. Ammon, Park, and Yoon.

5. The presbytery **VOTED** to dismiss Rev. Patricia Weikart (Basking Ridge) to the Presbytery of West Jersey, where she has received a call to serve as the Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Pitman, NJ. The congregation voted to dissolve the call on March 11, 2007.
6. The presbytery **VOTED** to grant Honorably Retired status to Rev. Winter Lantz (MaL).
7. Elder Gieser then reported concerning the actions taken by the Committee on Ministry by the authority given to it by the presbytery under G-11.0502h.

a. The committee concurred with the request from Rev. Michael Burkley and the Bethlehem church, dissolving the pastoral relationship.

- i. Rev. Burkley's current salary and benefits package (medical, pension, retirement, professional expense, FICA, continuing education, etc.) will be continued for a period of 10 months beginning March 1, 2007 and terminating on December 31, 2007.
- ii. Rev. Burkley and his family will be allowed to continue free use of the Manse through December 31, 2007. In the event Session would require Rev. Burkley and his family to vacate the Manse prior to calendar year end, Session agrees to provide Rev. Burkley with a housing allowance of \$1,750.00 per month through December 31, 2007, plus reasonable moving expenses.
- iii. In the event Rev. Burkley receives another call or other full-time employment, then these terms of separation as set forth above will conclude on the date the new position commences. Rev. Burkley has committed to pursuing another call or full time employment with all due effort.
- iv. Rev. Burkley's last Sunday preaching will be on Sunday, February 25, 2007 and that his last date of work will be February 28, 2007.
- v. Rev. Burkley's current annual salary and benefits package is presented below. Rev. Burkley will receive 1/12 of this for each month until December 31 or until he commences another call or other full-time employment, which ever comes first.

Minister's Salary: \$48,000
Minister's Supplement for Social Security Tax: \$5,324.40
Minister's Housing: \$18,100 (fair market value for the use of the manse)
Minister's Utilities Allowance: \$3,500
Minister's Medical, Pension, Disability, and Death Benefit Coverage: \$21,924
Minister's Travel and Professional Expense: \$3,600 (\$2,500 minimum)
Minister's Continuing Education: \$1,700 (\$1,700 minimum)

- vi. Rev. Burkley will use his professional expenses exclusively for career counseling (paid via vouchers submitted by Rev. Burkley).

b. The committee approved the Temporary Supply Covenant between Rev. Helen Beglin (HR) and the Westfield church.

Terms

Salary	\$37,440 <i>per annum</i>
Housing and Utilities	\$24,960 <i>per annum</i>
Continuing Education	\$ 1,700 <i>per annum</i> (paid through an accountable reimbursement plan)
Travel and Ministry Expense	\$ 2,500 <i>per annum</i> (paid through an accountable reimbursement plan with automobile expenses reimbursed at the current allowable IRS rate of \$0.445 per mile)
Pension and Medical Benefits	\$ 7,488 (12% of Salary + Housing & Utilities)

AA/EEO Guidelines were followed.

c. The committee approved the Temporary Supply Covenant between Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White (MaL) and the Westminster church.

Terms

Cash Salary	\$ 425 <i>per week per term of covenant</i>
Housing and Utilities	\$ 75 <i>per week per term of covenant</i>
Continuing Education Allowance	\$ 850 <i>per term of covenant</i> (paid through an accountable reimbursement plan)
Travel & Ministry Expenses	\$ 60 <i>per week per term of covenant</i> (paid through an accountable reimbursement plan with automobile expenses reimbursed at the current allowable IRS rate of \$0.485 per mile)
Pension and Medical Benefits	\$ 4,095 (31.5% of Salary + Housing & Utilities) <i>per term of covenant</i>

AA/EEO Guidelines were followed.

d. The committee approved the Interim Pastor Covenant between Rev. Charles Baier and First Presbyterian Church of Avenel effective March 15, 2007 and concluding on March 14, 2008.

