

**The Presbytery of Elizabeth**  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
**Special Meeting**  
**April 26 MMVII**  
**Fanwood Presbyterian Church**  
**Fanwood, NJ**

**Attendance.**

Present:

Minister Members: Michael Granzen (Elizabeth, Second), Paul F. Rack (Fanwood), Beth Anderson-Domer (Fanwood), William C. Weaver (Linden), Susan E. Joseph (Martinsville), Neal D. Presa (Middlesex), Robert Martin (Crescent Ave); Leslie Foltz-Morrison (SM), Robert Foltz-Morrison (EP), Lawrence Finn III (MaL), Janet Vane Pederson (MaL), James Verser (MaL).

Elder Commissioners: Eugene Daniel (Berkeley Heights), Rosemary Schultz (Cranford), Ed Towery (Cranford), Meredith Meeker (Linden), Beverly Siccone (Middlesex), Marjory Bradshaw (Mountainside), Edward Ashanky (United), Joanne Noblitt (Rahway, First), Warren Braunwarth (Central), Christine Bennett (Central), Dave Garrabrants (Connecticut Farms), Claudia Heffner (Westfield), Barbara Ringk (Westfield), H. David Rogers (Westfield).

Council (Elders); and Past Moderators (Elders): Alan Ford (Bethlehem), Susan C. Gieser (Berkeley Heighst), Mabel Hansen (United), Judith Wussler (Fanwood); Eunice Baer (Oak Tree), Margaret Chilton (Central).

Excused:

Minister Members: Birda Ferguson (Third-Westminster), Joon Sik Kim (Korean), Jeffrey Gibelius (Pluckemin), Karen Chamis (Roselle), Victoria M. Ney (Springfield), S. Allen Foster (Central), Rebecca Laird (Central), Helen Beglin (Westfield); William Ross Forbes (SM), Janice Ammon (MaL), Diane Hoppe-Hugo (MaL), (include Honorably Retired or out-of-state minister members).

Elder Commissioners:

Council (Elders); and Past Moderators (Elders): Gerard Nelson (Liberty Corner);.

All others absent.

Others in Attendance:

Dave Bomgaars (Central), Roderick Spearman (Elizabethport), Phyllis Black (Metuchen), Nicholas Bradshaw (Mountainside).

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# Minutes.

## **Moderator's Call to Order.**

A special meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth was held on Thursday, April 26, 2007, at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, in Fanwood, NJ. The Vice-Moderator of Presbytery, Rev. Michael Granzen (Elizabeth Second) called the meeting to order with prayer at 7 pm (EDT). (The Moderator of Presbytery, Elder Alan Ford (Bethlehem) voluntarily declined to moderate this meeting as he is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, Inc., which has business before this meeting.)

## **Stated Clerk.**

Rev. Paul F. Rack (Fanwood), the Stated Clerk of Presbytery, read the following call for the meeting that was disseminated from the presbytery office on April 16, 2007:

### **NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

**A special meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth will be held on Thursday, April 26, 2007 at 7:00 PM at the Fanwood Presbyterian Church, 74 Martine Ave. South, Fanwood, NJ 07023; 908-899-8891. The purpose of the meeting is to approve the sale of a piece of property by the Trustees of the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, Inc. This is the only business that may be transacted at this meeting. A motion is included in this e-mail below.**

**Rev. Paul F. Rack  
Stated Clerk  
The Presbytery of Elizabeth**

The meeting was requested by Rev. Russell Block (HR), Rev. Lawrence Finn, III (MaL), Elder Gerard Nelson (Liberty Corner) and Elder Phyllis Black (Metuchen), fulfilling the requirements of G-11.0201.

A quorum was present. (See By-Laws, Article XIII.E; G-11.0202.)

## **Trustees of Presbytery.**

Rev. Lawrence Finn, III (MaL), & Elder Phyllis Black (Metuchen) presented a report of the Trustees of Presbytery, which consisted of the following motion:

WHEREAS, the Elizabethport Presbyterian Center, Inc. ("Elizabethport") was established to act as an agency of the Presbytery of Elizabeth in the Elizabethport community, focusing on strengthening families, working for the relief of poverty, promoting justice, providing opportunities for people to develop skills to maintain themselves, and sharing Christian teachings, and

WHEREAS, during or about 1990, the Grant Avenue Center in Plainfield ceased operations, the Presbytery of Elizabeth requested Elizabethport to administer the Family Development Center ("FDC") formerly operated by the Grant Avenue Center, and Elizabethport agreed to administer this program while attempting to identify a Plainfield-based organization to assume responsibility for the FDC, and

WHEREAS, Elizabethport purchased property at 510 Grant Avenue in Plainfield, financed in part by a mortgage loan made by the New Jersey Redevelopment Authority which has since been repaid in full, demolished an existing structure and otherwise prepared the property for the construction of a new building to replace the existing inadequate leased structure housing the FDC, developed architectural plans for the new building, obtained zoning board approval for such architectural plans, and included the financing of the new structure in Plainfield with the fund raising effort undertaken in connection with the construction of a new facility in the Elizabethport community, and

WHEREAS, Elizabethport has found it difficult to raise the funds needed to construct new facilities in both the Elizabethport and Plainfield communities, and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of Elizabethport concluded that operating the FDC in Plainfield was not within its core area of expertise and that attempting to raise money for the construction of a new facility in Plainfield was diverting resources and attention from its primary mission in Elizabethport, and

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Presbytery of Elizabeth, at their meeting on June 7, 2006 approved a motion for presentation to the Presbytery that the Presbytery approve a proposed agreement between PROCEED Inc., a non-profit organization providing services similar to those provided by the FDC, and Elizabethport would be in the interest of Elizabethport and the Plainfield community, and

WHEREAS, E'port and PROCEED Inc. were unable to reach a final agreement on several terms of the proposed agreement as a result of which the Motion approved by the Trustees was not presented to the Presbytery for consideration and the agreement between Eport and Proceed Inc. was not executed, and

WHEREAS, E'port continued to solicit offers to purchase its property in Plainfield and assume operations of the FDC, and

WHEREAS, the African American Fund of New Jersey, Inc. ("AAFNJ"), an organization with an extensive history of community involvement that includes the provision of the type of services provided by the FDC and the financial resources to construct a new facility, desires to expand its operations in the Plainfield community and has offered the highest of three bids for the property, and

WHEREAS, the Elizabethport Board of Directors and the AAFNJ have agreed that it would be beneficial for both parties that AAFNJ, Inc. purchase Elizabethport's property in Plainfield and assume responsibility for the operation of the FDC, and

WHEREAS, the Trustees of the Presbytery of Elizabeth, by electronic meeting conducted during the period April 11, 2007 through April 18, 2007 in accordance with its customary procedures for such meetings, approved the plans of the Board of Directors of Elizabethport to sell its property on Grant Avenue in Plainfield to AAFNJ,

THEREFORE, the Trustees move that the Presbytery, at a special meeting called for the sole and specific purpose of considering the matter, approve the plan of the Board of Directors of Elizabethport, Inc., subject to the sole condition that the zoning board again approve the architectural plans previously approved: (a) to sell its property at 510 Grant Avenue in Plainfield, and related architectural and engineering plans to AAFNJ for an amount not less than \$320,000.00 (three hundred and twenty thousand dollars), and (b) transfer the existing operation of the FDC to AAFNJ at a mutually agreeable time.

An amendment requiring that the proceeds from the sale be equally divided with the United Presbyterian Church of Plainfield, the former owners of the property in question, was **DEFEATED**.

The presbytery **VOTED** to approve this proposal.

#### **Adjourn.**

The presbytery **VOTED** to adjourn at 7:30 pm (EDT), with prayer by the Moderator, Elder Alan Ford (Bethlehem).

Attest:

Rev. Paul F. Rack  
Stated Clerk