

# The Presbytery of Elizabeth

Presbyterian Church (USA)

## 628<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting

June 17 MMVIII

## The Presbyterian Church

Westfield, NJ

### Attendance.

Congregation	Minister		Elder	
Avenel	Charles Baier (I)	P	Charles Kurowsky	A
Basking Ridge (4)	Tom Robinson (I) D Greenwood White (IA) Robert Beringer (TS)	P P E		A A A A
Bedminster, Lamington (2)	Matthew Davis [Vacant (A)]	P		A A
Berkeley Heights, Westminster (2)	J Cochran-Carney (D)	P	Eugene Daniel Daria Romankow	P P
Bernardsville (2)	Chester Kim	E		A A
Carteret (2)	[Vacant]	-	Alicia Toke Charlotte Toke	P P
Clark, Osceola (2)	John Naugle	P	Jean Rudyk	P A
Clinton (2)	Tim Harrison (C) Karen Harrison (C)	E E		A
Cranford (3)	Gregory Horn Valencia Norman (A)	P A	Lynne Fitzpatrick Cheryl Vroom Arthur Winter, Jr.	P P E
Dunellen, First (2)	Jeff Hayes Wildrick Silvio DelCampo (E)	P A	Mary Hicks	P
Edison, Community (2)	Kenneth Macari	P	Claude Heller	P A
Edison, Lord of Hope	Chang Woo Lee	P		A A
Edison, Oak Tree (2)	Jill Hedlund Kitsko (D)	P		A A

Elizabeth, First (2)	Charles Hale (TS)	P	Borys Abulevsko Michael Bradley	P P
Elizabeth, Second (2)	Michael Granzen	P	Linwood Bagby Nancy Muller	P P
Elizabeth, Third-Westminster (2)	Birda Ferguson (I)	P	Betty Prezzy Bryant Camille Mallouh	P P
Elizabeth, Greystone (2)	[Vacant]	-	Margaret Dauble Candido Valdez	P P
Elizabeth, Korean (2)	Joon Sik Kim Isaac Ahn (A)	P P		A A
Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope (2)	John Howard	P	Lorraine James Helen Mosley	P P
Fanwood (2)	David Jahnke Elizabeth Anderson- Domer (PA)	P P	Liz Henderson Richard Sharrett	P P
Fords (2)	Douglas Kurtz (SS)	A		A A
Garwood (2)	Gary Wetzel	P		A A
Hillside Millennium (2)	Jupiaic Gomes	P		A A
Iselin (2)	James F. Thomas	P	Betty Stauffer Paul Staffer	P P
Liberty Corner (4)	Steve McConnell Anne Havrilla (A) Anita Miller Bell (TS)	P P A	Roy Christensen Shelley Jones	P P A A
Linden (2)	William Weaver	P	Meredith Schachter Paul Wolfe	P P
Linden, Calvin (2)	[Vacant]	-	Ann Petersen Bart Zucosky	P P
Martinsville, Christ (2)	Susan Joseph Rack	P		A A
Metuchen (2)	Samuel Massengill Curtis Lane Paul II (A)	P P	Phyllis Black Cheryl Tedder	P P
Middlesex (2)	Neal Presa	P	Ruth Mikalonis	P A
Mountainside, Community (2)	Chris Belden	P	Nicholas Bradshaw Louise Sgarro	P P
New Providence (3)	Jeffrey Ebert Michael Flavin (A) Ian Rankine (A)	A A A		A A A

No. Plainfield, Watchung Ave. (2)	Douglas Grote (I)	P	Doug Boleyn Dianne Ledder	P P
Perth Amboy (2)	Peter Hofstra	E		A A
Pittstown, Bethlehem	Paul Rack (I)	P	Alicia Tamilio	P
Plainfield, Bethel	Murv Gardiner (SS)	E	Paul Broady	P
Plainfield, Crescent Avenue	Robert Martin	P	Janice Haer	P
Plainfield, United	Victor Aloyo, Jr. (TS)	A		A
Pluckemin	David Noble (I)	P	Heidi Kelleher	P
Rahway, First	Branwen Cook	P	Carol Chapin	P
Rahway, Second	Douglas Muller	P	Jack Miesowitz	P
Roselle, First	Karen Chamis	P		A
Scotch Plains, Willow Grove	C Cochran-Carney	P	Jon Finne	P
Springfield	Victoria M. Ney	P	Don Rathjens	P
Summit, Central (3)	Philip Jones John Illian (A) Rebecca Laird (A)	P E E	Peter Suzuki David Twardock David Vickroy	P P P
Union, Connecticut Farms	Howard Bryant (I)	E		A
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	Elwood Jacobi Sarah Miller Marylyn Straight Kim Taylor	P P P P
Woodbridge	Robert Boyar	P	Al Amatucci	A

**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)	P
Linda Owens (Bound Brook PC, New Brunswick Presbytery)	A
Mercy Rumengan (Metuchen Indonesian Fellowship)	P
Joseph Yoon (Ambassadors Presbyterian Fellowship NCD)	P

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

Erika Beer-Gerhard (Pastoral Counselor)	E
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)	A
Jennifer T. Hrynyk (Community Congregational Ch, Short Hills)	P
Dorothy Morris (Norwood Terrace)	A
Arthur Pace (U.S. Army Chaplain) (Pennsylvania)	E
Mark Smith (U.S. Navy Chaplain)	A

**Ministers-at-Large** (G-11.0406b)

Jennifer Butler (Maryland)	E
Matthew Camlin (Pennsylvania)	E
Bradley Crump (New York)	E
Robert Davis (Florida)	E
Lawrence Finn III	P
Fernando Jensen (Florida)	E
Jeff Neufeld (Georgia)	E
John Oh (Florida)	E
Yoon Park	A
Maureen Paterson	E
Janet Vane Pederson	P
Corina Rodriguez (Oklahoma)	E
Hector Seda	E
W. Alfred Tisdale, Jr. (Connecticut)	E
James Verser	E

**Retired Ministers**

(Helen Beglin) <i>see Westfield 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>	-
Reid S. Byers, Jr.	E
John Dunlap, Jr.	E
Thomas Evans	E
Else Farr (California)	E
Joseph Fowler (New York)	P
Joseph Garlic	E
Leonard Grant	E
(Charles Hale) <i>see Elizabeth, First above</i>	-
David Krotchko	E
Winter Lantz (North Carolina)	E
Abraham Luckhoff (Georgia)	E
Charles Maxell (Michigan)	E
John Millar (Manitoba Canada)	E
Hibbert Moss	E
Bruce Schundler	E
S. Lorenzo Shannon (Virginia)	E
Timothy J.J. Shu	E
Brooks Smith	P
Joyce Stedge-Fowler (New York)	P
John Stephenson	P
John Talbot (Florida)	E
Elmer Talcott	P
Je Sun Yoo	E
Edward Younken	E

**Elders Serving on Council**

Kathy Genus, EDU / POINT	P
Susan C. Gieser (Westminster), Vice-Chair	P
Mabel Hansen (United), PW	A
Lee Anne Lowman (Central), Chair	P
Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield), Vice-Moderator	P
Helen Mosley (Siloam-Hope), EDU (see Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope)	-
Gerard Nelson (Liberty Corner), Trustees	P
Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner) OSCU	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
Alan Ford (Bethlehem)	P
Bonnie Ruggiero (Willow Grove)	P
Michael Young (Bethlehem)	E

**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. Karla Koll, (Pueblo Presbytery), PCUSA Mission	P
Rev. Rebecca Laird (Summit, Central) Church of the Nazarene	E
Rev. Bebb Wheeler Stone, Pittsburgh Presbytery	P

**Others in Attendance**

Sara Burke, staff (Westfield), Elizabeth Quintero (staff), Cecelia Quintero (volunteer), Janice Bongiovanni (Springfield), Marjory Bradshaw (Mountainside), Patti Pangborn (Calvin), Ruth DiGiacomo (Calvin), Lee Chapin (Rahway, First), Lynn Santulli (Pluckemin), Stuart Race (Pluckemin), Lillie Howard (Siloam-Hope), Maryjane Finne (Willow Grove), Rev. Douglas Schonberg (The Presbyterian Church of Canada), David Moddy (The Presbyterian Church of Canada)

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# Minutes.

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

The 628<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth was held on Tuesday, June 17, 2008, at the Presbyterian Church in Westfield, NJ. The meeting was called to order at pm (EDT), and opened with prayer by Rev. Michael Granzen (Elizabeth Second), the Moderator of Presbytery.

A quorum was present.

1. The Moderator introduced the Host Pastor, Rev. Raymond Roberts (Westfield), who welcomed the presbytery.
2. First time Commissioners were introduced from the Cranford, Westfield, and Metuchen churches.
3. The presbytery VOTED to seat Rev. Bebb Stone (Pittsburgh Presbytery), as Corresponding Member for this meeting.

## **Stated Clerk.**

Rev. Paul F. Rack (Bethlehem), the Stated Clerk, presented his report which consisted of the Consent Agenda.

1. The distributed Docket for this meeting with the addition of five minutes for the Committee on Representation, at approximately 4:45. And there will be no installation of a Vice-Moderator.
2. The Minutes of the 627<sup>th</sup> Stated Meeting.
3. Excuses were granted to the following presbyters: Beringer, Kim, T Harrison, K Harrison, Hofstra, Gardiner, Illian, Laird, Bryant, McCormick, L Foltz-Morrison, Beer-Gerhard, Paterson, Seda, Verser; and Elders: Winter (Cranford), and Young (Bethlehem)
4. A report indicating that the session records of the Lamington, Liberty Corner, Third-Westminster, Pluckemin, and Cranford churches have been reviewed and approved.
5. The Minutes of the Council meeting held on June 10, 2008.
6. The report of the Treasurer of Presbytery. (See appendix I.)
7. The report of the Administrative Commission to charter the Hillside Millennium Presbyterian Community as a church of this denomination, and to install the Pastor & officers. (See appendix II.)
8. The report of the Administrative Commission to install Rev. James Thomas a Pastor of the Iselin church. (See appendix III.)
9. A progress report from the Administrative Commission working with the Elizabeth First church indicating that they have had two meetings, the most recent one in February, 2008.

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

## **Committee on Ministry I.**

Rev. Robert Martin (Crescent Avenue), chair, presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

1. Rev. Martin introduced Rev. Bebb Wheeler Stone, who is coming into our presbytery to serve as the Interim Pastor at the Calvin church. Rev. Stone presented her written Statement of Faith and responded to the questions of the presbytery. The presbytery **VOTED** to receive Rev. Stone as a minister-member, and the following terms of covenant, effective July 23, 2008, until July 25, 2009:

<u>Terms of Covenant</u>	
Salary	\$44,000
Housing and Utilities	\$12,800
Pension and medical	\$17,917 (31.5% of salary and housing)
Continuing Education allowance	\$1,700
Travel and ministry allowance	\$2,500
Continuing Education leave	21 days including 3 Sundays
Vacation	31 days including 5 Sundays
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$78,917</b>

2. Rev. Martin then presented a motion that, at the request of the Pastor and the members of the fellowship, meeting on June 1, 2008, the pastoral relationship between the Ambassadors Presbyterian Fellowship and Rev. Joseph Yoon be dissolved. The presbytery **VOTED** to approve of this dissolution, effective June 29, 2008.
3. Rev. Martin presented the membership of an Administrative Commission which is charged with ordaining Mr. Robert Louer (New Providence) to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, on June 22, at 4 pm, at the New Providence church. He has been examined and accepted for membership in the Presbytery of New York City. The presbytery **VOTED** to empower this Administrative Commission.

Elder Barbara McLaughlin (Westfield), Moderator of Presbytery  
 Elder Marilyn Anderson (Basking Ridge)  
 Elder Robyne Bryant (New Providence)  
 Rev. Diedre Greenwood White (Basking Ridge)  
 Rev. Samuel Massengill (Metuchen)  
 Rev. Ian Rankine (New Providence)

4. Rev. Martin presented a motion that, at the request of the Associate Pastor and the congregation, meeting on 2008, that the pastoral relationship between Rev. Rebecca Laird and the Central church be dissolved. The presbytery **VOTED** to approve of this dissolution.
5. Finally, Rev. Martin reported the following items completed by the committee on behalf of the presbytery by the authority given to it under G-11.0502h.
  - a. The committee examined and received as a minister-member Rev. Rebecca Curtis, to serve as Associate Pastor at the Clinton church, if the way be clear. The committee approved the following terms of call. A congregational meeting will be held on July 13, 2008.
  - b. The committee examined and received as a minister-member Rev. Michael Samson, to serve as Associate Pastor at the Westfield church, if the way be clear. A congregational meeting will be held on June 22, 2008.

4:40/4:19

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry.**

Rev. Gregory Horn (Cranford), chair, presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. He announced that the committee had accepted a new Inquirer, Ms. Lynn Santulli (Pluckemin). The presbytery **VOTED** to enroll Ms. Santulli as an Inquirer.

### **Committee on Representation.**

Elder Judy Wussler (Fanwood) presented the report of the Committee on Representation, with the help of her puppet "Pressie."

Announcement Cluster

### **Special Nominating Committee.**

Elder Alan Ford (Bethlehem), chair of the Special Nominating Committee, presented the committee's report. The following nominations were presented by the Special Nominating Committee for service on the presbytery Nominating Committee.

Rev. Cynthia Cochran-Carney (Willow Grove)	(Term II)
Rev. Gregory A. Horn (Cranford)	(Term II)
Rev. David Krotchko (HR)	(Term I) effective September 2008

There being no further nominations from the floor, the presbytery **VOTED** to elect these presbyters to the Nominating Committee.

### **Global Mission Committee.**

Rev. Brooks Smith (HR) presented the report of the Global Mission Committee. Among the places to which our presbytery is sending mission partnership groups are Honduras, Brazil, Ecuador, Malawi, Cameroon, Zambia, Arizona, West Virginia, the Gulf Coast, Maryland, Newark, and Guatemala.

Rev. Karla Koll (Pueblo Presbytery), our Missionary-in-Residence, also spoke on the conversations she has had with women in Guatemala, focusing on the empowering message of the Scriptures. Our denomination's number of long-term mission personnel has been declining, but the GAC has vowed not to let this number fall any further. She expressed appreciation to the presbytery for their participation with her in this year of her residence with us. The presbytery expressed its appreciation to her with applause and the presentation of gifts.

### **Executive Presbyter.**

Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison presented his report as Executive Presbyter. He thanked Rev. Koll for her work among us. He also noted that he does keep track of things like adult baptisms, which Rev. Jill Hudson lifted up last month as signs of presbytery health.

Rev. Foltz-Morrison also offered words recognizing the service completed by presbytery volunteers, and called to the front several presbyters who have been serving. He also distributed certificates.

Finally, he presented a certificate of appreciation from the Presbytery of Donegal to Rev. Thomas Robinson (Basking Ridge), on the occasion of the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his ordination by the Presbytery of Philadelphia.

### **New Church Development Commission.**

Rev. Isaac Ahn (Elizabeth Korean), chair, presented the report of the New Church Development Commission. The Ambassadors Fellowship, a New Church Development of this presbytery, voted, on June 1, 2008, to terminate its ministry. Rev. Ahn answered questions from the presbytery. Presbytery **VOTED** to dissolve the Ambassadors New Church Development, in Edison. Rev. Ahn then offered a prayer for the members of the fellowship, their pastor, Rev. Joseph Yoon, and the presbytery.

### **Keynote Presentation I (in the Assembly Hall)**

The presbytery reconvened after dinner to hear from The Discipleship Project, which is "a tool for

stimulating, promoting, and measuring adult spiritual education.” Rev. Doug Schonberg and David Moody (Niagara Presbytery, Presbyterian Church of Canada) made this presentation.

The background of this effort has to do with getting wider participation in adult education in churches. They realized it is not the youth that need to be focused on for church growth, but the adults. When they start getting excited about their faith, all the other programs in the church benefit.

Widespread involvement in intentional adult spiritual education was the original goal. They started by doing the usual things, which had minimal participation and involvement. Then they started using a different image, that of a feast. Why would people not come to the feast? What are the barriers?

1) People are too busy... but this is a matter of the choices people make. Spiritual growth ends up as the last priority. How to transform those choices?

The answer was *credibility*: something people can touch, with clear value; easy to gather critical information; respects their time; helps them find the best fit. They came up with the idea of “course cards,” which are colorful playing-card-sized advertisements of the offerings. The cards contain the name of the course, how many credits it is worth, the location, a course summary, the length of the course, cost, and contact information. Whenever a course is completed, “credits” are awarded (based on time, money, and distance), which recognize and celebrate the effort of the participant. Every member is encouraged to do five credits each year.

2) People are unique. But the church’s programs are often one-size-fits-all.

The response to this problem was based on personality types, such as Myers-Briggs. Courses need to be structured differently according to different personalities. People also have different circumstances and schedules: family and work commitments, different budgets and transportation abilities. Churches too often think of what is convenient for us, not for the prospective participants. People also have different interests and levels of expertise, stages of life and learning styles. In other words, the answer was *flexibility*: offer something for everybody. A course is not just a class; it is any opportunity for an adult to develop spiritually. We need to let go of our need to control what, where, and how people are learning. Find a way to make many different opportunities available and count.

3) People want to see results. Spiritual education is hard to measure.

The response to this problem was *tangibility*. Make the programs more visible through a display board: showing congregational goals and how well they were being met. This encourages people.

4) Churches are defeatist. Churches often have lots of excuses.

The response to this was *accessibility*. The web-site ([www.thediscipleshipproject.org](http://www.thediscipleshipproject.org)) has the ability to produce custom-made cards and gives advice about how to do a bulletin board. In other words, the idea is to make participation easy.

## **The Presbytery at Worship.**

The presbytery gathered for worship, featuring a sermon by Rev. Michael Granzen, “On Being Salt, Not Saccharine.” Worship also included the Installation of our new Moderator, Elder Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield). Elder McLaughlan read the Necrology (See appendix IV.) of elders who had passed into the Communion of the Saints over the past twelve months. A joint choir from across the presbytery led the singing of praises to God, along with a bell duet of Ms. Chelsea Bené and Mr. Andrew Cunningham (Westminster). The presbytery celebrated the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper, and commissioned the following as Commissioners and Youth Advisory Delegate to 218<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:

Rev. Brooks Smith (HR)  
Rev. Jill Kitsko (Oak Tree)  
Elder Susan Gieser (Westminster)  
Elder Alicia Toke (Carteret)  
Ms. Michelle Cooper (Siloam-Hope)

## **Presentation II.**

After worship, the presbytery regathered to hear more from Rev. Schonberg and Mr. Moody, who continued to speak on the benefits of intentional adult spiritual growth.

They read different selections from Scripture, and recounted several diverse cases of people whose lives were changed by adult spiritual education and growth experiences, especially through the Discipleship Project.

## **Committee on Ministry II.**

Rev. Robert Martin (Crescent Avenue), chair, presented a motion from the Committee on Ministry that an Administrative Commission be established to work with the Greystone church. The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the warrant for this Administrative Commission, as amended by the committee. (See appendix V.)

## **Adjourn.**

The presbytery **VOTED** to adjourn at 8:52 pm (EDT) with prayer by the Moderator, Elder Barbara McLaughlan.

## **Attest:**

Rev. Paul F. Rack  
Stated Clerk