

The Presbytery of Elizabeth
 Presbyterian Church (USA)
645th Stated Meeting
March 22 MMXI
Third-Westminster Presbyterian Church
Elizabeth, NJ

Attendance.

Congregation	Minister	Elder	
Avenel	Jason Tucker	P	Karen Severyn P
Basking Ridge (3)	Dennis Jones Maureen Paterson	A A	John Hoare P A A
Bedminster, Lamington	Matthew Davis [Vacant (A)]	A --	A
Berkeley Heights, Westminster	Diane Ruffle (TS)	P	Eugene Daniel P
Bernardsville	Chester Kim	A	A
Carteret	Rachel S. Stahle (D)	A	Charlotte Toke P
Clark, Osceola	John Naugle	P	Jean Rudyk P
Clinton	Linda Robinson (I) [Vacant (A)]	E --	Lisa Lomauro P
Cranford (2)	Diane Curtis (I) Valencia Norman (A)	P A	Jeff Brown P A
Dunellen, First	Jeff Hayes Wildrick Silvio del Campo (E)	P A	Suzanne Geiger P
Edison, Community (2)	Kenneth Macari	P	Pat Meyer P Art Ubl P
Edison, Lord of Hope (2)	Chang Woo Lee	A	A A
Edison, Oak Tree (2)	Jill Hedlund Kitsko (D)	P	Nancy Sittinger A A
Elizabeth, First (2)	Robert Higgs (D)	E	Candido Valdez P A
Elizabeth, Second (2)	Michael Granzen	P	Linwood Bagby P A
Elizabeth, Third-Westminster (2)	Frank K Muse (D)	P	Karl Ardler P Betty Prezzy Bryant P

Elizabeth, Korean (2)	Jaeshin Soh [Vacant (A)]	A --		A A
Elizabeth, Siloam-Hope (2)	John Howard	P	Helen Mosley Lorraine Tidd	P P
Fanwood (2)	David Jahnke E Anderson-Domer (TS)	P P	Krista Daniskas Fiona Leahy	P P
Fords, First (2)	Douglas Kurtz (SS)	A		A A
Garwood (2)	Isaac Ahn (TS)	P	John Nardone	P A
Hillside Millennium (2)	Jupiaci Gomes	A		A A
Iselin, First (2)	James F. Thomas	P	Betty Stauffer	P A
Liberty Corner (4)	Donald Feuerbach Anne Havrilla (A)	P E	Jack Frost Brian Lee Don Mayer-Brown Gerard Nelson	P P P P
Linden (2)	William Weaver	A		A A
Linden, Calvin (2)	Ryan Landino	P	Anne Kenderes George Vircik	P P
Martinsville, Christ (2)	Susan Joseph Rack	P	James Breeding	P A
Metuchen, First (3)	Samuel Massengill Curtis Lane Paul II (A)	E P	Jeremy Campbell Charles Hedrick	P P A
Middlesex (2)	Neal Presa	P	Ruth Mikalonis	P A
Mountainside, Community (2)	Chris Belden	P	Marjorie Bradshaw Nicholas Bradshaw	P P
New Providence (3)	Jeffrey Ebert Michael Flavin (A) Ian Rankine (A)	P A A	Michael Shao Paul Sulewski	P P A
No. Plainfield, Watchung Ave. (2)	S Vance-Ocampo	P	Douglas Boleyn Dianne Ledder	P P
Perth Amboy, First (2)	Peter Hofstra	E		A A
Pittstown, Bethlehem (2)	Laurie Sponaule	E	Alicia Tamilio	P A
Plainfield, Bethel (2)	Murv Gardiner (SS)	A	Ray Bostwick Paul Broady	P P
Plainfield, Crescent Ave	Robert Martin	P		A

Plainfield, United	Victor Aloyo, Jr. (TS)	E	Jonathan Williams	P
Pluckemin	A. Coile Estes K Brostrum-O'Brien (IA)	E P		A
Rahway, First	Douglas Grote (I)	P		A
Rahway, Second	Douglas Muller	P	Dana Marsh	P
Roselle, First	Karen Chamis	P	Richard Bennett	P
Scotch Plains, Willow Grove	C Cochran-Carney	A	August Ruggiero	P
Springfield, First	Victoria M. Ney	P	Don Rathjens	P
Summit, Central (2)	Charles Baier (I) John Illian (A) [Vacant (A)]	P P --	Tom Barenach John Ward	P P
Union, Connecticut Farms	Roberta Arrowsmith	A	Millicent Egbert	P
Union, Townley	Chris Taylor	A		A
Warren, Trinity United	[Vacant (P)]	--	Carol Ann Krueger	P
Westfield (3)	Raymond Roberts Mike Samson (A) Emily Wilmarth (A)	P P A	George Harbt Barbara Ringk Don Williams	P P P
Woodbridge, First	Robert Boyar Shelley Gardner (A)	P E	A. Thomas Walsh	P

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

Gregory A. Albert, Interim Executive Presbyter (Presbytery of Elizabeth)	P
Nadia Ayoub, Mission Worker, (PUCSA Worldwide Mission - The Ukraine)	E
Linda Owens, DCE, (Bound Brook PC, New Brunswick Presbytery)	A
Paul F. Rack, Stated Clerk (Presbytery of Elizabeth)	P
Mercy Rumengan, PA (Metuchen Indonesian Fellowship)	P

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

Nancy Munshour Asbury (Raritan Valley Habitat for Humanity)	E
Leonard Bethel (Rutgers University)	A
Sally Campbell (St. Luke's Hospital, Bethlehem, PA)	E
Deirdre Greenwood White (Annisquam Village Ch, Gloucester, MA)	E
Kathryn Henry (Peapack Reformed Church, Gladstone, NJ)	P
Linda Hora (NJ Veterans' Memorial Home, Edison, NJ)	A
Jennifer T. Hrynyk (Community Congregational Ch, Short Hills, NJ)	A
Christina L. McCormick (The Westminster Schools, Atlanta, GA)	E
Dorothy Morris (Norwood Terrace, Plainfield, NJ)	P
Arthur Pace, U.S. Army Chaplain (Pennsylvania)	E

Janet Vane Pederson (Grace Healthcare Services, Edison, NJ)	P
---	---

Ministers at Large (G-11.0406b)

Jennifer Butler (Washington DC)	E
Bradley Crump (Queens, New York)	P
Lawrence Finn III	P
Leslie Foltz-Morrison	P
Philip M. Jones	A
John S. Oh (California)	E
Charles R. Sanders	P
Gary Wetzel	E
Joseph Yoon	A

Inactive Roll (G-10.0302 (3)(a))

Robert A. Davis (Florida)	--
Jeff Neufeld (Georgia)	--

Retired Ministers

Helen Beglin	E
Robert Beringer	E
Frederick Black	E
Russell Block	P
George Bonnell	E
Charles Brackbill	E
Howard Bryant	P
Reid S. Byers, Jr.	E
William O Culton	P
John Dunlap, Jr.	E
Else Farr (California)	E
Joseph Garlic	E
Leonard Grant (Florida)	E
Charles Hale	E
David Krotchko	E
Winter Lantz (North Carolina)	E
Abraham Luckhoff (Georgia)	E
Charles Maxell (Michigan)	E

John Millar (Manitoba Canada)	E
Hibbert Moss	E
Corina Rodriguez (Oklahoma)	E
Bruce Schundler	E
S. Lorenzo Shannon (Virginia)	E
Timothy J.J. Shu	E
Mark Smith	E
John Stephenson	P
John Talbot (Florida)	E
Elmer Talcott	E
W. Aldred Tisdale, Jr. (Connecticut)	E
James Verser	E
Je Sun Yoo	E

Elders Serving on Council

Amy Aaroe (Cranford, First), Presbyterian Women	E
Janet Bentley (Basking Ridge), Personnel Committee	P
Tom Hale (Springfield, First), COR	E
Susan K. Krivenko (Rahway, First), Moderator	P
Jack Paddon (Liberty Corner), Member at Large	P
David Rogers (Westfield), Trustees	P
Alicia Tamilio (Pittstown, Bethlehem), EDU	P
Arthur Winter, Jr. (Cranford, First), OSCU	P
Judith Wussler (Fanwood), Synod of the NE Representative	P

Elders Who Have Served as Moderator

John Cavicchia (Fanwood)	A
Maggie Chilton (Central) (Kentucky)	E
Alan Ford (Bethlehem)	E
Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield)	P
Bonnie Ruggiero (Willow Grove)	P
Michael Young (Bethlehem)	A

Others in Attendance

Dave Bomgaars (Summit, Central) (Presbytery Treasurer), Elizabeth Quintero (Presbytery Staff), Sara Burke (Westfield) (Presbytery Staff), Rev. Brooks Smith (New Brunswick), Elsie Anne McKee (Princeton Theological Seminary), Rev. Gregg Mast (Reformed Church in America), Elder Alan F.H. Wisdom (National Capital), Harry Zweckbronner (Johnsonburg), Alicia Toke (Carteret), Kay Hurd (Warren), Glory Thomas (Iselin), Christine Weaver

Minutes.

Call to Order.

The 645th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth was held on Tuesday, March 22, 2011, at the Third-Westminster Presbyterian Church, in Elizabeth, NJ. The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm (EDT), and opened with a prayer by Susie Krivenko (Rahway First), the Moderator of Presbytery.

(The call to order was preceded by an hour of gathering/fellowship time featuring refreshments, and a video announcement from Camp Johnsonburg.)

A quorum was present.

1. The Moderator introduced the host Pastor, Frank Muse (Third-Westminster), who welcomed the presbytery. He introduced the facility and members of the church providing hospitality.
2. First-time commissioners were introduced from the Willow Grove, Edison Community, Trinity United, and Garwood churches.
3. The presbytery **VOTED** to seat the following presbyters as Corresponding Members: Elsie McKee (New Brunswick Presbytery), Gregg Mast (Reformed Church in America), and Alan Wisdom (National Capital Presbytery), who are the presenters for presbytery's discussion of the Confession of Belhar; and Johanna Williams (Presbytery of the Peaks), who is the Student Assistant at the Christ church.

Stated Clerk.

Paul F. Rack (staff) presented his report as Stated Clerk, mainly consisting of the following Consent Agenda, which he explained.

1. The distributed Docket for this meeting.
2. The distributed Minutes of the 644th Stated Meeting.
3. The following Excuses, which were collected at the meeting: Ministers: Robinson, Higgs, Havrilla, Massengill, Hofstra, Sponaugle, Aloyo, Estes, Gardner; and Elders: Aaroe, Hale, and Ford.
4. The report of the Treasurer & the Annual Audit Report. (See Appendix I.)
5. The Annual Statistical Report, submitted to the General Assembly. (With thanks to Sara Burke for her tireless work on this over the last couple of months.) (See Appendix II.)
6. The report of the Committee on Representation, including their Annual Report to the Synod of the Northeast. (See Appendix III.)
7. Confirming of the election of Andrew J. McElwee (Liberty Corner) as a member of the Board of Trustees of Davidson College. (The college requests presbytery confirmation of his election as a matter of policy.)
8. The following items from the Committee on Ministry:
 - a. To concur with the congregation of the Rahway Second church and Douglas Muller to dissolve the call between Doug and that church effective May 1, 2011; and grant him the status of Honorably Retired as of that date. A congregational meeting was held on January 30, 2011, Moderated by Doug Muller.
 - b. Approve the inclusion of revised language within the text of the presbytery's policy on Installation and Ordination Commissions to strengthen the determination of the presbytery that

such services should be held at a time other than Sunday morning; and to reinforce the language about diversity on these Commissions. (See Appendix IV.)

- c. Receive Brooks Smith (HR, New Brunswick Presbytery) as a member.
- d. Approve change in terms of call for Robert Higgs (Elizabeth First), as half-time Designated Pastor at the Elizabeth First church, effective February 1, 2011, for two years, as follows:

Effective Salary	\$26,000 (\$20,000 housing; \$6,000 403b)
Social Security Offset	\$1,859
Pension/Medical	\$8,190 (31.5% of Effective Salary)
Vacation Leave	15 Days
Total Compensation to Minister	\$36,049
Travel/professional Allowance	\$1,500
Continuing Education Allowance	\$900
Continuing Education Leave	One Week
Total Cost to Church	\$39,666

The committee notes that there is another half of Bob Higgs' compensation that will be paid by the Old First Historic Trust as compensation for his position of part-time Executive Director.

- e. Authorize Paul Rack (Stated Clerk) to labor-outside-the-bounds, in Monmouth Presbytery, where he has been invited to serve as the Interim Pastor of the Hope church, in Tinton Falls, NJ.
 - f. Approve the renewal of the Interim Covenant between the session of the Clinton church and Linda Robinson (Clinton), for twelve months, effective April 1, 2011.
9. Approval of a six-month extension to the Warrant of the Administrative Commission working with the Central church.

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

Recognition of the Reverend Douglas Muller.

Doug Grote (Rahway First) came forward with Douglas Muller (Rahway, Second), who was just approved for Honorably Retired status.

Doug has been a wonderful, gentle presence among us. As it happens, Doug was in attendance at the assembly of the church in South Africa when the Confession of Belhar was approved. Doug Muller also spoke, thanking the presbytery. Being in Elizabeth has been a wonderful experience, in spite of the problems with immigration. (His wife Avril was not able to come to America until Doug was here for three and a half years.) He experienced much warmth in this presbytery and at the Second Rahway church. Dana Marsh, Clerk of Session, also spoke about Doug's arrival, right after September 11, 2001. He immediately started organizing community responses to the attacks of that day. She added words about Doug's strong influence among people in the church.

Nominating Committee.

Curtis Paul (Metuchen), chair, presented the report of the Nominating Committee, which consisted of the following nominations of presbyters to positions in the presbytery:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Rev. Laurie B. Sponaugle (Bethlehem) 2013 (Term I)

Personnel Committee

Rev. A. Coile Estes (Pluckemin) 2013 (Term I)

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

Interim Executive Presbyter.

Greg Albert (staff) reported as Interim Executive Presbyter. He presented a chart listing all the presbyteries in New Jersey, and several columns indicating membership, number of churches, per capita, and how they handle mission and operations budgets. The final column showed what manner of staff each presbytery supports. Some presbyteries dip into their reserves to cover an annual deficit, and some do not.

Our presbytery is in conversation with Newark Presbytery over the possibility of sharing staff and other resources. Please keep those involved in your prayers.

The Presbytery at Worship.

The service featured fine music from young people involved in the Institute for Music at the Third-Westminster church: Catherine Bruno, a vocal soloist, Anna Kroik on keyboards, Luck Rasoanilana on piano, Shania Taylor, a harpist, and a drum corps led by Rudy Bird with students from Elizabeth's SOAR Program and Restore Ministries. Shannan Vance-Ocampo (Watchung Avenue) preached. The presbytery dedicated mission pledges from sessions during the service as well.

Bills and Overtures Committee.

Neal Presa (Middlesex), chair, presented the report of the Bills and Overtures Committee, which was a referral from the 219th General Assembly (2010): The ratification of the inclusion of the Confession of Belhar in the *Book of Confessions*. He introduced the process we will follow, approved by the Council.

He introduced the panel. Ken Macari (Edison Community) introduced Elsie McKee.

Elsie McKee (New Brunswick Presbytery), a professor at Princeton Theological Seminary, gave an introduction to the nature of Confessions in the Reformed Tradition.

The Reformed Tradition devoted a great deal of attention to the practice of confessing the faith. In the 16th century, confessing the Reformed faith could lead to a death sentence. The early Reformed Christians had the conviction that the traditional teaching of the Catholic church had gone astray. The church had been corrupted. People required a way to understand and express the faith. Reformed Confessions were intended to honor God according to God's Word, expressing essential truths. Another purpose of Confessions, and especially catechisms, was educational. People were ignorant of the central truths of the gospel and the content of the Bible. Church teaching was cluttered with unnecessary matters, and was weak on the basics. Reformed Confessions brought the essentials back into focus. The Confessions were used to witness to outsiders (ie. people who stuck with the Roman church). Differences in the Reformed Confessions had to do with local contexts and needs. It was about re-education of the people. The texts also served to regulate the limits of fellowship both inclusively and exclusively.

The presbytery had a chance to ask questions.

Gregg Mast (Reformed Church in America), who is the President of New Brunswick Theological Seminary, spoke in favor of inclusion. (For a text of his remarks, see Appendix V.)

Alan Wisdom (National Capital Presbytery), who is Vice-President of the Institute for Religion and Democracy, spoke in opposition to inclusion. (The "briefing paper" submitted may be found in Appendix VI.)

The presbytery was given an opportunity to question the presenters. The presbytery then engaged in debate, and **VOTED** by written ballot. The ballots were counted by Karl Ardler (Third-Westminster) and Barbara McLaughlan (Westfield). The vote was **yes-56; no-36; abstain- 4**.

Motions from Sessions.

The presbytery received several motions from sessions regarding budgeting and the remission of per capita payments.

1. The first was from the Dunellen church, concerning separating the presbytery mission and per capita budgets. Jeff Wildrick (Dunellen) spoke on behalf of this overture. (See Appendix VII.) The presbytery **VOTED** to postpone until the May Stated Meeting the consideration of this overture.
2. The second motion was from the New Providence church, concerning the remitting of General Assembly

and Synod per capita. The presbytery **VOTED** to refer this overture to the Council to come back with a recommendation for presbytery action.

Adjourn.

The presbytery **VOTED** to adjourn at 9:56 pm (EDT) with prayer by the Moderator.

Attest:

Paul F. Rack
Stated Clerk

**The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Elizabeth
will be on Tuesday, May 24, 2011,
at the Lamington Presbyterian Church, in Bedminster,**