

MINUTES of PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE  
STATED MEETING February 9, 2019  
First Presbyterian Church of Chittenango, NY

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a Stated Meeting on Saturday, February 9, 2019 at the First Presbyterian Church of Chittenango, New York. A Question and Answer session on the Proposed Amendments from General Assembly was held from 8:45 a.m. to 9:15 a.m.

Gathering of the People of God

In the absence of the moderator and vice moderator, the meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. by Elder Linda Russell, Leadership Team Chairperson, who opened with prayer.

Chris Burger, Co-Stated Clerk of Susquehanna Valley Presbytery was welcomed as Stated Clerk Pro-Tem.

Elder Russell declared a quorum was present: 18 churches were represented by 23 Ruling Elder Commissioners, 15 Ministers, 2 Commissioned Lay Pastor, 6 Ruling Elders with vote due to office. 31 Ruling Elders, 15 Teaching Elders for a total of 46 enrolled with vote. The Roll was taken by sign-in sheets in the registration area and attested to by the Stated Clerk Pro-Tem.

NOTE: Official Roll and Attendance is presented at the end of these minutes.

A motion was made that Elder/CLP Gail Banks be named as Recording Secretary.

Motion was seconded, **voted upon and APPROVED.**

The Rev. Charles Vollmer, pastor of our host congregation, welcomed all present and gave a brief history of the church, highlighting the indigenous people who first inhabited the land on which we were meeting.

First-time ministers and elder commissioners were introduced and welcomed as were guests Dr. Lori Klivak and Toma Tracy from InterFaith Works. A motion was made, seconded **voted upon and APPROVED** that Rev. Anne Marie Meyerhoffer (Southern New England Presbytery) be seated as a corresponding member during her term of service as Interim at First Presbyterian Church of Marcellus.

Worship of the People of God with Communion: Moderator Shawn Reyburn (who was delayed due to slippery road conditions) arrived in time to call us together for worship. Rev. Reyburn gave an inspiring message and he and Rev. Vollmer served communion.

Work of the People of God:

Moderator Reyburn called for a motion to approve the docket [**Appendix #01**].

A motion was made, seconded, **voted upon and APPROVED.**

Moderator Reyburn asked for approval of the minutes of the November 3, 2018 Presbytery Meeting [**Appendix #02**]. Two corrections were presented: the name of the Elder Commissioner from First Presbyterian Church, Liverpool should read 'Patrick Gallagher'; and the minutes were 'attested' by Stated Clerk Pro-Tem, Rev. Jeremy Campbell. A motion was made and seconded that the November 3, 2018 minutes be approved with corrections. Motion was seconded, **voted upon and APPROVED.**

Moderator's Report: Rev. Shawn Reyburn outlined his activities for the past three years.

Leadership Team Report Part I:

Special Report from Interfaith Works: Elder Linda Russell introduced Dr. Lori Klivak and Toma Tracy from the InterFaith Works of CNY who gave a presentation on the One-to-One Program that serves elder adults in the greater Syracuse area. InterFaith Works has received \$8,000 in Mission Initiative and Benevolent Care grants from our Presbytery. They let Presbytery know how those monies are being used and expressed their thanks.

CNY Missional Structures Working Group: Elder Russell reported for Rev. Tom Oak on Working Group that has been formed for the purpose of discerning how the mission and ministry of Presbyterian churches in CNY might be carried out in collaborative, new and creative ways not necessarily confined by our current geographical understandings of our presbyteries. The group, which is being facilitated by the Synod, includes representatives from Northern New York, Utica, Susquehanna Valley and Cayuga-Syracuse. Rev. Jenna Heery has agreed to serve as one of our representatives, and two other representatives are expected to confirm their participation shortly.

Records and Overtures Work Group [**Appendix #03**]: Elder Jill Fandrich, on behalf of the Work Group, then presented the proposed Amendments from the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly. Each Amendment was presented with the work group's recommendation. After discussion, Amendments 18-A, 18-B.1, 18-B.2, 18-D, 18-E, 18-F, 18-G, 18-H.1 and 18-H.2 were **voted upon and APPROVED**. Amendment 18-C was **voted upon and DISAPPROVED**.

The body then gathered around the table for fellowship and lunch.

Upon reconvening,

Leadership Team Report Part II:

LT written Report [**Appendix #04**] presented by Elder Russell.

She highlighted the special training for PJC members which was held in Cortland on January 31, 2019 and introduced the six (of seven) members of our PJC who were present.

Financial Reports were shared [**Appendix #5**]. Russell invited questions about the financial reports, but none were raised. Treasurer Gordie Howard announced that 2018 per capita raised to-date came to 94% of the goal which is slightly better than previous years.

A question was raised from the floor about **A-26** in the written report, with the 'Exam Readers for ordination exams feeling the candidates were not well-prepared,' asking how was this handled.

Elder Linda Van Buskirk, one of the exam readers, explained that constructive suggestions were given to the candidates.

Under **A-27**, Elder Russell requested that the body think about the expectations of a 10-hour position for Stated Clerk for Cayuga-Syracuse, suggesting that we may need to re-examine the position with the possibility of reducing the expectations for 10 hours or increasing the size of the position. Members were asked to share their ideas with her.

Under **A-28** a plea was made for pastors to consider serving on the Leadership Team as currently there is an imbalance of elders to pastors.

Elder Russell then presented recommendations coming from the Leadership Team to Presbytery regarding the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse: (Bold /Underline=Additions, Italic/ Strikethrough= Deletions)

R-1: That Standing Rule 2.03 remain as written:

“The Moderator of Presbytery shall be elected for a two (2) year term, without renewal, and shall have authority and responsibilities according to G-3.0104; shall be a member of the Leadership Team without Vote; and shall have responsibility to speak on behalf of the Presbytery.”

And that Standing Rule 2.04 be amended as follows:

“The Vice Moderator of Presbytery shall be elected for a two (2) year term, without renewal, ~~concurrent with the Moderator of Presbytery~~ **and the term of the Vice Moderator shall not run concurrently with the Moderator.** In the absence or at the request of the Moderator of Presbytery, the Vice Moderator may discharge any or all of the functions of the Moderator.”

The recommendation was **voted upon and APPROVED.**

R-2: That Article VI of the By-Laws be amended as follows to allow for members of the Leadership Team to be elected to two successive three-year terms:

“The Leadership Team of the Presbytery is what has at various times been described as ‘The Council, The General Council, The Executive Committee, etc.’ The Leadership Team shall consist of 15 individuals, each of whom shall be a member of one of our churches of the Presbytery, and who shall be elected for a three (3) year term, **and who shall be eligible for reelection to a second three-year term up to six consecutive years of service, after which they shall be ineligible for election to the Leadership Team for a period of one year. In the case of an individual elected to fill out parts of multiple terms, the maximum number of consecutive years of service shall be six years followed by a year of ineligibility,** ~~without possibility for immediate renewal with the exception that under extenuating circumstances, should Presbytery deem it necessary or prudent, Presbytery may vote to extend the term of an officer for up to one additional year in addition,~~ One member, between the ages of 16 and 21 inclusive, shall be elected by the Leadership Team, upon nomination by the appropriate Work Group, to serve for a period of one (1) year. Following the example of the participating churches, the Leadership Team shall serve as ‘session’ and ‘trustees’ of the Presbytery. Only such members who are of the age of majority as defined by the State of New York may vote on corporate matters as a Trustee. In all other business before the Leadership Team, they serve as full members. Under extenuating circumstances, should Presbytery deem it necessary or prudent, Presbytery may vote to extend the term of an officer for up to one additional year. The Presbytery Moderator, Vice Moderator, Stated Clerk and Treasurer shall be ex officio members of the Leadership Team with Voice and without Vote.”

The recommendations were **voted upon and APPROVED.**

Ministry Work Group: Rev. Lorrie Cooney, Co-Chair, expressed profound gratitude to the Rev. Garrett Anderson for his exemplary service as chair of this work group for the past several years. The body joined in expressing their thanks with a standing ovation.

Rev. Cooney went on to highlight various items from the Leadership Team report, section A-14 to A-23:

- The Ministry Work Group will henceforth be known as the “COM Work Group.”

- Rev's Lorrie Cooney and Lorrie Day Anson will serve as co-chairs of the COM Work Group.
- The "Negotiating a Dissolution Agreement" portion of the COM manual has been updated.
- As commissioned in November, the work group approved the following actions:
  - Terms of Call for Rev. Stephanie Weaver, Robinson Elmwood United, beginning February 1, 2019 (see attached).
  - A temporary supply pastor agreement between Scipioville and Rev. Pam Gnagy for service January 25, 2019 through May 1, 2019 (see attached).
  - A one-year temporary supply pastor agreement between Chittenango and Pastor Charles Vollmer beginning January 1, 2019 (see attached).
- Churches were reminded that they must establish a child/youth protection policy and were instructed to send a copy of their policy to presbytery.
- Churches were reminded that they must have a sexual harassment policy in place and that all employees must receive sexual harassment training by October 2019.
- All churches will have an assigned liaison from the COM Work Group. This is an intentional effort to give each church a consistent person they can contact for any questions they may have and to build strong relationships with churches.

Report of the Nominating Committee: Elder Russell reported for Elder Donna Hunt, chair of the Nominating Committee. A motion was made, seconded to elect Elder Karen Fay, Liverpool, and Elder Jacquelyn Murphy, Parish-New Hope, to the Leadership Team class of 2021, and Elder Craig Williams, Park Central, to the Leadership Team class of 2022.

Motion was **voted upon and APPROVED**

Report on Synod Mission & Ministry Commission: Elder Vic Jenkins, Baldwinsville, submitted a written report on the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission held January 25-26, 2019 [**Appendix #06**].

Report of Communications Coordinator: Communications Coordinator, Sarah Buckshot, gave a report. She asked all churches to look at their information on the Presbytery's website and send her any updated information. She also asked if people would be interested in a '101 Website Training' sometime this Spring. East Syracuse Church offered their facilities for this training event.

There was a time to share Good News from our congregations and worshipping communities.

Moderator Reyburn closed the meeting with prayer at 2:45 PM.

**The final, permanent minutes of this Assembly will also include the reports and handouts distributed at this meeting.**

Notes recorded by Gail Y. Banks, CLP, Recording Clerk.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Chris W. Burger, Stated Clerk Pro-Tem

**ROLL -2-9-19**

**Ruling Elder Commissioners present:**

Amboy Belle Isle	Robert M. Armstrong
Auburn, First	
Auburn Westminster (2)	Roger Dilmore, Jill Fandrich
Aurora	
Baldwinsville (2)	Jeanne LePorte
Cazenovia (2)	
Chittenango	Charles Albee
Collamer	
Dewitt, Pebble Hill (2)	
East Syracuse	
Fayetteville	Beth Krauss
Fulton	
Hannibal	
Jamesville	Lorana E. Zirbel
King Ferry	Neil Rotach
LaFayette	
Liverpool	Robert Samos
Marcellus (3)	Sandy Manciocchi, Helen Stevens
Mexico	Susan Silliman Smith
Morrisville	Sylvia McKinnon
North Syracuse, Northminster	
Oswego	
Otisco	
Parish, New Hope (2)	David W. Sperling, Jacqueline Murphy
Port Byron (2)	
Scipioville (2)	
Sennett (2)	Chuck Youmell, Barbarann Youmell
Skaneateles (5)	
Syracuse, Isaiah's Table	
Syracuse, Korean (2)	
Syracuse, Onondaga Hill (2)	Ryan Collins
Syracuse, Park Central (4)	Caroline Sheffield, Ronnie Jones
Syracuse, Robinson Elmwood (3)	Mary Browne
Syracuse, South Valley (2)	
Syracuse, Westminster (2)	
Taunton (2)	
Weedsport	William Smith
Whitelaw	Jill Kilts
Present	23
Churches Represented	18

**Minister members present:**

Garrett Anderson	Present
Mary Anderson	Present
Lorrie Cooney	Present
Pamela Gnagy	Present
Karen Green	Present
Mark Harrison	Present
Daniel McCollister	Present
Diane Monger	Present
James Moore	Present
Shawn Reyburn	Present
Harold (Sandy) Sanderson	Present
Monica Styron	Present
Debra Thomas	Present
Charlie Vollmer*	Present
Stephanie Weaver	Present
* Temporary Member of Presbytery	
Present	15
Lorrie Day Anson	Excused
Diane DiLuzio*	“
Beth DuBois	“
Linda Even	“
Jenna Heery	“
Patrick Heery	“
Yong Ju Jee	“
Craig Lindsey	“
Andrew McTyre	“
Sarah McTyre	“
Banu Moore	“
David Movsovich*	“
Tom Oak	“
Kathleen Waters	“
*Temporary Member of Presbytery	
Total excused:	14

**Minister members absent with notice:**

**Commissioned Lay Pastors present or absent with notice:**

Gail Banks	present
Donna Chapman	present
Total present	2

**Leadership Team Ruling Elders present:**

Bob Davenport	Excused
Gordie Howard	Present
Linda Russell	Present
Linda VanBuskirk	Present
Lynn Jacques	Present
Mark Kasdorf	Present
Nancy Wind.	Excused
Rita Hooper	Present
Present	6
Excused	2

**Total present and eligible to vote:**

15 Ministers  
 2 Commissioned Lay Pastors  
 23 Ruling Elder Commissioners  
 6 Ruling Elders with vote due to office,  
 Total 46

**Candidates and Inquirers:**

Dan DeBrucker-Cota	Excused
Shavonn Lynch	Excused
Present	0
Excused	2

**Corresponding Members:**

Louise Barger	Fulton, 1 <sup>st</sup> United (ABC)
Anne Marie Meyerhoffer	Marcellus / Southern New England Presbytery
RE Chris Burger	United Presbyterian Church, Binghamton

**Visitors present:**

Sarah Buckshot	Communications Coordinator
Dr. Lori Klivak	InterFaith Works, Syracuse
Toma Tracy	InterFaith Works, Syracuse
Karen Golliff	Not listed
Karen Fay	1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Liverpool
Tim Fay	1 <sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church, Liverpool