

REPORT OF THE LEADERSHIP TEAM CHAIRPERSON
Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse Annual Stated Meeting - May 14, 2019

All correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred, or answered.

It is to be noted for the record that this meeting constitutes the annual corporate meeting of the Presbytery. There is no business of a strictly corporate nature that needs to come before us, but the minutes need to record that the annual meeting of the corporation was held as required.

There are several “annual things” to be done and reported to Presbytery at its annual stated meeting of the year:

1. The location of stored minutes.

The Presbyterian Historical Society has the following minutes on deposit from the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse:

Middle Association (Presbytery) Records of Ministers and Churches on the Military Tract and its vicinity – 1 volume, from May 29, 1804 to September 5, 1810. (*Note: The Middle Association united with the Presbytery of Geneva to form the Presbytery of Cayuga on October 4, 1810*)

Presbytery of Cayuga – 16 volumes of minutes, from 1811-1955

Presbytery of Syracuse – 5 volumes of minutes, from 1887-1892, 1906-1909, 1927-1956

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse – 4 volumes of minutes, from 1961-1968, 1989-2000

The Presbytery has bound books of copies of its minutes stored in the Presbytery’s storage room at the offices of the Synod of the Northeast, as follows:

September 24, 1968 – April 30, 1974

June 10, 1974 – March 31, 1979

June 19, 1979 – January 28, 1984

March 20, 1984 – November 12, 1988

January 21, 1989 – November 16, 1993

January 22, 1994 – September 23, 1997

November 25, 1997 – November 28, 2000

The Presbytery has minutes in archival boxes stored in the offices of the Synod of the Northeast, as follows:

January 27, 2001 – November 17, 2009

The Presbytery has a bound book of its minutes stored in the offices of the Synod of the Northeast, as follows:

January 23, 2010 – January 21, 2012

The Presbytery has minutes in archival boxes stored in the offices of the Synod of the Northeast, as follows:

March 27, 2012 – November 3, 2018.

2. The names of former members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms have expired within the last six years (arranged alphabetically within classes, beginning with the most recent class), are as follows:

Class of 2019: Elder Tina Casella (Fulton) Elder Roger Dilmore (Westminster-Auburn)

Class of 2017: the Revs. Andrew McTyre and Kathleen Waters, elder Fred Marty (Park Central)

Class of 2015: the Rev. Karen Dimon, elder Edward Fauler (Liverpool)

3. One of the key principles of Presbyterian church polity is to have equal numbers of ministers and elders in all councils above the session. For this reason, it is required to report annually to Presbytery any imbalance between the number of ministers on the roll of Presbytery and the number of elders who are entitled to vote at Presbytery meetings, so that adjustments can be made if necessary to maintain the parity of ministers and elder commissioners at Presbytery meetings (G-3.0301). The following are the numbers of which we need to be aware in this matter (as of May 2019), based on the Presbytery’s policy for the Annual Equalization of Presbyters:

One elder commissioner from each congregation	= 37
One elder commissioner from Isaiah’s Table	= 1
Elder members of Leadership Team	= 7
Elder members who chair Nominating or PJC	= 1
Elder officers of Presbytery	= 3
Commissioned Lay Pastors	= 2
Additional elder commissioners from churches with additional ministers on staff: Park Central (2)	= 2
Additional ruling elder commissioners from churches with membership between 176-400: Westminster-Auburn, Baldwinsville, Cazenovia, DeWitt, Fayetteville	= 5
Additional ruling elder commissioners from churches with membership of 401 or more: Skaneateles	= 2
Total elder commissioners	= 60
Ministers in installed pastoral relationships	= 18
Ministers in specialized ministries	= 2
Ministers in temporary ministries	= 6
Minister members-at-large	= 9
Retired minister members	= 30
Temporary members of Presbytery	= 8
Total minister members	= 73

Since the number of minister members is more than the number of eligible elder commissioners, our Presbyter’s policy states that the “requisite number will be filled by asking sessions of churches to elect additional commissioners, rotating among the congregations in alphabetical order.” As a result, the following thirteen (13) sessions/boards are eligible to send one additional elder commissioner to Presbytery meetings through the 2020 Annual Meeting of Presbytery: Weedsport, Whitelaw, Amboy Belle Isle, Auburn-First, Auburn-Westminster, Aurora, Baldwinsville, Cazenovia, Chittenango, Collamer, DeWitt-Pebble Hill, East Syracuse, Fayetteville.

All required **annual reports for 2018** from the Presbytery were filed with the General Assembly within the prescribed time requirements. These include: Minister Summary, Church Summary, Miscellaneous, and Middle Governing Body Cost forms. During 2018, our congregations received a total of 106 new members, reduced their starting number for membership by 66, and lost a total of 412 members, for a net Presbytery loss of 372 people. The total number of members in the churches in our Presbytery as of December 31, 2018 was 3,485. Five congregations increased in membership during the year, twenty-five decreased in membership, and seven remained the same. Decline in recorded membership for 2018 was approximately 10%. The Presbytery’s Annual Statistical Report will be included as an **appendix** to the minutes.

Session Annual Statistical Report: At the close of the 2018 statistical reporting season, 37 of 37 sessions successfully completed their report for 2018, for a completion rate of 100%.

Presbytery Policies:

- a. Child and Youth Protection Policy was adopted May 20, 2017.
- b. Policy Statement and Procedures on Ministerial Misconduct from 2009 is currently being updated.
- c. A sexual harassment policy to comply with NYS needs to be written.

The **minutes of Presbytery** from February 2018 through November 2018 were reviewed by the Synod of the Northeast on May 1, 2019. The minutes were approved with the following two exceptions:

- a. The Administrative Commissions established for the ordination of Rev. Jenna Heery (April 14, 2018) and the installation of Rev. Dan McCollister (April 15, 2018) were reported approved but there was no report recorded that those services were subsequently carried out (although both services did in fact take place), that the AC's had completed their work, and that they were dismissed with thanks; and
- b. The Presbytery has not reviewed annual reports of ministers performing work which is not under the jurisdiction of the presbytery or a higher governing body of the church.

It was noted that there was no Committee on Representation (COR) report. However, for 2018 this is not considered an exception. Beginning in 2019 the lack of a COR report will be noted as an exception.

On May 1-2, 2019 I attended the **Synod-sponsored Presbytery Leadership Forum** for staff leaders and stated clerks held at Stony Point. During this time, participants shared blessings and challenges in their presbytery, examined the Missional Structures/Communities Initiatives in New Jersey and Central New York, discussed the purpose and future direction of mid-councils, conducted the Synod review of presbytery minutes, and worshiped together three times.

Elder Victor Jenkins was unable to attend the **Synod Commission** in Albany May 3-4, 2019 due to unavoidable conflicts. Synod Stated Clerk, Nancy Talbot, stated that going forward presbyteries will be encouraged to appoint alternate commissioners to cover this kind of situation.

Identification cards for ministers and commissioned lay pastors are available from Moderator Shawn Reyburn.

My term of service as your Leadership Team Chairperson ends on May 31, 2019. It has been my honor to serve you in this capacity for the past three years and I will be forever grateful to God, and to you, my sisters and brothers in the Presbytery, for trusting me with this responsibility and for the "one-anothering" which has made my work every so much more doable and filled with joy. Thank you. And may God continue to bless us in all that lies ahead.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda S. Russell
Leadership Team Chairperson