

**MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE
STATED MEETING – November 14, 2023
East Syracuse, New York**

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at First United Church of East Syracuse and on Zoom.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 P.M. by Moderator Rev. Garrett Anderson.

After a brief welcome, including an acknowledgment to honor the Haudenosaunee indigenous peoples who were the original stewards of the land on which this presbytery meeting was held, Moderator Anderson called for recognition of first-time commissioners.

Moderator Anderson also welcomed observers and guests.

Good news from around the presbytery was shared and affirmed.

Moderator Anderson provided some basic meeting instructions to the commissioners, and covered voting procedures for in-person and Zoom.

WORSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Worship, including communion by intinction, was held, with Elder Lynn Jacques preaching.

WORK OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Moderator Anderson called for new business. It was pointed out that the Worship Report was mistakenly added to the docket.

Moderator called for a motion to approve the docket as amended. Approval as amended was moved and seconded. **VOTED APPROVED.**

MOTION to approve the minutes of the September 16, 2023 Stated Meeting was made, seconded, and **VOTED APPROVED.**

ANTI-RACISM WORKSHOP INFORMATION

Elder Marissa Saunders spoke about Park Central's Anti-Racism work:

- Around 2019, started anti-racism work.
- Session decided to do more and actively live out the Matthew 25 Initiative
- Worked with InterFaith Works to understand more about the cultural awareness of the congregation.
- Joy and Justice (5 week, scripture-based course)
- White Fragility and Just Mercy (books that were required reading)
- Wrote a grant and received a ReKindle grant to help fund more of this work
- Offering a Spring session of this 5-week course (beginning in April) and a Winter session (beginning late January). These sessions would be free (thanks to the grant they received). Information will be in the next presbytery newsletter.

- Marissa Saunders' email: Niaministriesworldwide@gmail.com

REPORT OF THE MODERATOR

Moderator Anderson written report was included in the meeting materials.

REPORT OF THE INTERIM RESOURCE PRESBYTER

Sessions are required to create, approve, and implement the following policies (there are templates available from the Presbytery and Synod):

- Sexual Misconduct Policy
- Harassment Policy (this can include other forms of harassment besides sexual harassment)
- Child & Youth Protection Policy
- Anti-Racism Policy
- Family Leave Policy

-Conversations are taking place between Cayuga-Syracuse, Utica, and Susquehanna Valley Presbyteries. The Interim Resource Presbyter has created a survey for all members of the Presbytery (including church members) to complete and provide input for these ongoing conversations.

As the Presbytery lives into this new structure - and new staff - there will be ongoing changes and edits that may be needed (things we forgot to include, things that need to be adjusted). Lets be flexible and patient.

Presbytery Survey (included in meeting materials)

Church Transformation Grant (grant information in meeting materials)

MOTION made and seconded to approve the formation of a Church Transformation Commission, appointed by the Moderator, to oversee, manage, and utilize PCUSA, and other, grant funds designated for church transformation and related development activities. **MOTION PASSED**

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye, Stated Clerk, reported that he received a report of sexual misconduct that requires the formation of an investigating committee.

MOTION made a seconded to form an investigative committee, to be appointed by the moderator. **MOTION PASSED**

Church Statistical Reporting will run from December 1, 2023-February 14, 2024. If you have any questions, please contact the Stated Clerk: statedclerk@cayugasyracuse.org

Rev. Fitzgerald-Fye then gave some departing remarks: Let's assume that we have 5 years to live. How do we want to live for those 5 years? Do we circle the wagons and have an inward focus? Or, do we go for it, because we have nothing to lose?

Rev. Anderson thanked the Rev. Fitzgerald-Fye for his faithful service and work.

HUMAN RESOURCES REPORT

Elder Victor Jenkins introduced the new Acting State Clerk, Amy Loving Austin.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

The Moderator led the Presbytery in a time of prayer.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer Ann Wiley submitted the following financial reports:

- September 2023 Non-Pass-Thru Budget Performance
- September 2023 Per Capita Report
- September 2023 Balance Sheet

The reports were received, and copies are attached to these minutes.

FINANCE AND PROPERTY REPORT

Elder Bob Davenport presented the final 2024 budget for approval. **MOTION PASSED**

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON MINISTRY *written report attached to minutes*

Recognizing service to the presbytery: Diane Monger and Tom Oak, James and Banu Moore, and Linda Even

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

The Rev. Beth DuBois presented the following motions:

CPM MOVES presbytery approval for CPM to appoint a replacement Minister of Word and Sacrament proctor for Candidate Dan DeBrucker-Cota's alternative ordination exams in Theology and Biblical Exegesis. **MOTION PASSED**

CPM MOVES the approval of Inquirer Briana Vought, Park Central, as a Candidate for Minister of Word and Sacrament. (statement and supporting materials included in the packet) **MOTION PASSED**

Prayer for the Candidate

REPORT OF NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Candidate Shavonn Lynch and Elder Lynn Jacques presented the following:

MOTION to accept the resignation of Shawn Rayburn as Commissioner to the Synod of the Northeast Assembly effective immediately. **MOTION PASSED**

MOVE the following nominations: **MOTION PASSED**

- Rev. Anna Gheen to serve as Commissioner to the Synod of the Northeast Assembly for a term beginning November 14, 2023 thru October 24, 2024.
- Elder Marissa Saunders to serve as Elder Commissioner to the 226th Presbyterian Church USA General Assembly

VISION AND STRATEGY written report attached to minutes

SYNOD COMMISSION REPORT

Elder Linda Russell reported.

KOREAN PEACE APPEAL UPDATE

Elder Linda Russell reported.

NEW/OTHER BUSINESS

With no further business before the presbytery, a **MOTION** to adjourn was made and approved by acclamation.

The Presbytery was adjourned with prayer at 8:20 PM.

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

Minutes submitted and attested by: