

# The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse

## **Special Meeting**

**October 23, 2024**

**6 pm**

On Zoom

## **Minutes.**

### ***Attendance.***

The attendance for this Zoom meeting is available upon request as a separate file.

### ***Call to Order***

The Moderator of Presbytery, Rev. Michael Hill, called the meeting to order with prayer. A quorum was present.

The presbytery **VOTED** to approve the Call to this Meeting.

The presbytery **VOTED** to seat the following Corresponding and Temporary Members

The presbytery **VOTED** to grant Excuses to all who applied.

The meeting is being recorded.

### ***Merger with Susquehanna Valley Presbytery***

Elder Steve Eidt moved on behalf of the Coordinating Committee: That Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery pursue merger with Susquehanna Valley Presbytery through a process of integration and collaboration until we determine if both presbyteries want to move in that direction.

The presbytery went into a period of questions and comments about the motion.

- What are the minimal requirements for a presbytery? Concerns expressed about a geographically much larger presbytery.
- Some presbyteries are very large geographically, which may allow for more intentional things to happen. It would be good to model what we are encouraging in our churches in terms of cooperation. What are our main concerns?
- Utica was originally part of the discussions. The specifics of what we will have after the completion of a merger is undefined; a group from each will be assembled to see if they can create something new that we can all agree on.
- A Discernment Team at the synod reports that Geneva Presbytery has a grant to equip small congregations and encourage local learning.

- Can we consider getting someone from outside to lead this? There are professionals who do this kind of work who may be available.
- Susquehanna Valley has 49 churches. Cayuga-Syracuse has 39.
- We have to change the things we are doing. The financial position is that Cayuga-Syracuse has \$2m; Susquehanna Valley has about \$400K.
- It seems that Susquehanna Valley has 2 years left if nothing happens, while for Cayuga-Syracuse the figure is more like 5 years.
- These assumptions about how much time presbyteries have left are not realistic, but presumptuous. We need to lean in to exploring this merger in good faith. Susquehanna Valley have agreed to explore this with us; we can't get caught up in details that are minutiae when what is relevant is that these two presbyteries can do God's work together that we cannot do separately. We should stop worrying about the bottom line but understand that maybe God's hand is working here. Let the Spirit lead us forward.
- God has a plan.
- We have no fear of death, we are resurrection people.
- Details are not relevant at this point; we need to decide to get into a conversation; we need to stop micromanaging a process that hasn't even started yet.

The presbytery **VOTED** unanimously to end debate.

The presbytery **VOTED** using the Zoom poll function, unanimously (36 yes, 0 no) to approve the motion as presented.

### ***Adjourn.***

The presbytery **VOTED** to adjourn at 6:47 pm.

The Moderator prayed.

Attest:

Rev. Paul F. Rack  
Stated Clerk

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