

**MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE
STATED MEETING – August 11, 2020
Held Online Via Zoom**

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a stated meeting on Tuesday, August 11, 2020.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Resource Presbytery Karen Chamis and Stated Clerk Ben worked with those needing technology assistance and offered training on how to vote, raise hands, etc.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM by Moderator Rev. Stephanie Weaver. Stated Clerk Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye declared a quorum present and Rev. Weaver opened the meeting with prayer.

The roll was taken by registration via the Zoom invitation and attendance and the attendance report is on file with the Stated Clerk. The report will be attached to the final draft of the minutes.

First-time elder commissioners were introduced and welcomed.

Moderator Weaver called for Good News reports from the presbytery. Good reports were offered and made clear that our member churches are doing well under difficult circumstances in the time of pandemic.

WORSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Moderator Weaver offered *God's Very Good Idea* as the worship and reflection element of the meeting.

WORK OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Moderator Weaver asked for a motion to approve the docket. **VOTED APPROVED** as amended with minor technical, spelling, date adjustments.

The minutes of the June 9, 2020 Stated Meeting and the July 14, 2020 Special Meeting were **VOTED APPROVED** as amended with minor changes to wording.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made, seconded, and **VOTED APPROVED**.

The Moderator called for New Business, but no items were submitted.

Moderator Weaver welcomed all.

REPORT OF THE RESOURCE PRESBYTER

Resource Presbytery Karen Chamis introduce an *Open Letter to the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse* from Rev. Harvey Sindima and expressed a need for the presbytery to address issues related to race and racial justice. Karen lifted up the conviction that our response to high profile events in the nation have not been “present enough” in the dialogue and activities of the presbytery. Karen also explained the

complex feelings and reactions that result from this kind of challenging moment and detailed some conversations within the Leadership Team.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

Report submitted in writing and received in the approved Consent Agenda.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Report submitted in writing and received in the approved Consent Agenda.

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE STATED CLERK

Report submitted in writing and received in the approved Consent Agenda.

REPORT OF RACISM RESPONSE TEAM

Resource Presbyter Karen Chamis, Moderator Weaver, and Stated Clerk Fitzgerald-Fye were asked by the Leadership Team to research and explore best practices for how the presbytery moves forward in response to recent events related to racism in the nation. They were also tasked with exploring the need for anti-racism resources and actions in the presbytery.

Karen, Ben, and Stephanie offered a view of denominational work and local church work happening in response to racism and racial justice issues. There is good work happening on both counts and much more to be done.

The *Open Letter to the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse* framed this conversation and Karen, Ben, and Stephanie offered personal reflections on the letter itself.

Karen, Ben, and Stephanie will be working to create recommendations for best practices moving forward including discerning the need for a standing committee related to this work.

REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES WORK GROUP

Special Recognition was given for the outstanding service to the presbytery by Sarah Buckshot, our guru of technology and communication. A slide presentation and words of thanks were offered.

The outstanding service of our Bookkeeper, Paula Lamberson, was recognized as she continues to keep our office functions and bookkeeping process in good, tidy order under sometimes challenging circumstances in these unusual times.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Elder Gordie Howard

Presbytery received the following financial reports for review as part of the Consent Agenda. Reports will be filed for audit:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Per Capita Report, May 2020
3. Statement of Financial Position by Fund, May 2020
4. Presbytery 2020 Budget, May 30, 2020

FINANCE AND PROPERTY WORK GROUP

The Finance and Property Work Group presented the first read of the 2021 Presbytery Budget as well as notes related to rationale and reasoning for the information contained in the budget. The final budget will be considered at the November 2020 meeting.

COM WORK GROUP

The report of the COM Work Group was received in the approved consent agenda.

NOMINTING COMMITTEE/WORK GROUP REPORT

The Nominating Work Group offered the following nominations for consideration by the presbytery:

1. Ruling Elder Linda VanBuskirk, Scipioville, was nominating as Vice-Chair of the Leadership Team for a term ending May 31, 2022.
 - a. No nominations made from the floor
 - b. Motion to close nominations was **VOTED APPROVED**
 - c. Motion to elect Elder VanBuskirk **VOTED APPROVED**
2. Rev. Pam Gnagy for the position of Commissioner to the Synod Assembly occurring October 23 through October 24, 2020
 - a. No nominations from the floor
 - b. Motion to close nominations **VOTED APPROVED**
 - c. Nomination of Rev. Gnagy **VOTED APPROVED**
3. Nominating gave an update on openings within the presbytery that need candidates on the Leadership Team, Nominating Committee, and Committee on Representation

OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

THE PEOPLE OF GOD DEPART

With no further business before the body, Moderator Weaver called for a motion to adjourn. Moderator Weaver also asked for prayer requests and offered a closing prayer. Moderator Weaver offered a closing charge and benediction and the meeting was adjourned by unanimous consent.

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

Minutes submitted and attested by:

Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye, Stated Clerk