

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON RIVER  
Presbytery Meeting  
March 28, 2017

The Presbytery of Hudson River met in stated meeting on Tuesday, March 28, 2017, at Stony Point Conference Center, Stony Point, New York, 10980, and was convened at 10:00AM with prayer.

Note: "MSA" = moved, seconded, approved.

TE = Teaching Elder; RE = Ruling Elder.

PHR website: [www.hudrivpres.org](http://www.hudrivpres.org) with a link to Hudson Happenings.

Call to Gather the Presbyters for God's Business

Moderator Peter Surgenor

Declaration of a Quorum

Moderator Peter Surgenor

Moderator Peter Surgenor declared a quorum was present.

Voting on the Docket

**Motion:** to vote on the Docket and Consent Agenda, with #1 pulled from the COM CA. (Attachments I & II). **MSA**

The AA/EEO guidelines were followed during the search process for all of the Teaching Elders and CREs listed in the Commission on Ministry report.

Introduction of New Ruling Elder Commissioners

The Moderator welcomed Ruling Elders who were attending as first time commissioners.

Seating of Corresponding Members

**Motion:** to seat Robert (Bronc) Radak for the duration of his time at Monroe. (Newton). **MSA**

Minutes Readers

TE David Kingsley and RE James Ferguson (Newburgh, Calvary) are the minutes readers for this meeting.

Welcome from Stony Point Center

Peter Surgenor

Peter Surgenor welcomed presbytery to Stony Point Center.

Community Conversations

- ***The Cookstove Project*** - Dale Southorn, leading
- ***Evaluating Three Models Of Presbytery Leader***- Gavin Meek, leading
- ***Health and Nutrition Resources for Young Families***- Lori Hylton and Susie Zachman, leading
- ***New Sanctuary: An Umbrella Over Lots of Options***- Bebb Stone, leading

Worship (Attachment III)

Bruce Baker planned and led worship. The offering was dedicated to One Great Hour

of Sharing and totaled \$ 950.

12:45 PM Blessing for the Meal.

Reconvened at 1:35 PM.

60 Second Announcements

Moderator Peter Surgenor opened with prayer.  
Moderator-elect Keith Brokaw assumed the chair.

Peter announced his retirement and the subsequent search for a new Executive Director for Holmes Camp and Conference Center. A standing ovation of appreciation for Peter's work occurred.

Interim General Presbyter's Report

Gavin Meek

Gavin raised up the Four Faith Parish on their tenth anniversary. Thanks were given for their dedication.

Gavin spoke about the Officer Training sessions he led, as well as the goals of Hudson River Presbytery to focus and stretch our mission.

Please share Hudson Happenings with your sessions and boards of deacons.

Committee on Representation and Nominations

The Committee on Representation and Nominations recommends the following:

**MSA** the following resignations:

**RESIGN** TE Lynda Clements      Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2018

**MSA** the following **elections** and moved with no nominations from the floor, **elected**:

Permanent Judicial Commission:

TE Samuel Speers      Class of 2018

TE Christa Swenson      Class of 2022

Leadership:

TE Laurie McNeill      Moderator of the Permanent Judicial Commission- 2020

Budget, Finance & Property (Attachment IV)

John Miller

Please send your Mission Giving Pledges to the office. We have received only 21 from our 80 churches. There is more information in the attached report.

Stated Clerk's Report (Attachment V)

Susan De George

The minutes of the January 31, 2017 stated meeting of the Presbytery were read by TE Bruce Baker and RE Jane Orcutt (Hortonville). They recommend approval.

**Motion:** that the presbytery 1) elect an Administrative Commission to explore the future of the church and its property with the Session and congregation of the Grahams Presbyterian Church (Pine Bush) and authorize it to assume original jurisdiction if and when it determines it is necessary and appropriate to do so and 2) nominate Teaching Elder David Kingsley, chairperson; Ruling Elder Heather Benedict (Montgomery); and Ruling Elder Corinne Geoghegan (Pine Bush) to be the members of the Administrative Commission. **MSA**

Susan then reported on the statistics submitted by 78 of our 80 congregations and explained to the presbytery what they tell us about our membership, our finances, etc.

For more information on Clerks of Session Day and other related topics, see the attached report.

Peter assumed the chair.

#### Commission on Ministry

Jeffery Farley & Charles Low Jr.

#1 pulled from the consent agenda was discussed.

1. **Motion:** to approve the following terms for Pamela Lupfer as part-time Campaign Organizer for the Presbyterian Hunger Program, effective 2/6/17: 8 hours per week, \$11.96 per hour. There was concern expressed about the below minimum wage - \$19.33 as per Clergy Compensation Committee - and it was agreed that Susan De George would write the Presbyterian Mission Agency stating that while COM approved the contract it strongly recommends an increase to our minimum, a more acceptable wage. **MSA**

Robert (Bronc) Radak was introduced, and spoke about his Statement of Faith, and what he is excited about in his new position at Monroe.

#### Communications Update

Noelle Damico

Noelle spoke about the many ways to be connected to HRP including Hudson Happenings, our monthly newsletter, the HRP Directory, and the blog, A Curious Faith, which is updated weekly.

#### Grants Committee

Cathryn Surgenor

Cathryn announced the latest Legacy Grant recipients:

- 1) Leslie Mott will be conducting Pastoral Retreats at Stony Point Center, using a Legacy Fund Grant of \$22,000.
- 2) Tim Ives received \$11,666 to support homeless families in Ossining, in conjunction with 7 congregations. Their group is ecumenical and community based. They are due to receive a refugee family, and they sheltered 10-15 people at night during the winter months. This will be the same amount each year for three-years.

#### Faith and Order (Attachment V)

Robert Trawick

Motion: to approve the proposed by-laws, recommended by the committee.

Discussion ensued and questions were answered.

**Motion:** to postpone the vote on the bylaws until the May meeting. Discussion ensued.

**Vote: Not approved.**

**Motion:** to amend the Bylaws and /or the Manual of Operations: Article V, section 2, to "at large members of the council will be persons who are not serving on commissions/committees of the presbytery that report directly to the presbytery instead of through the council." Discussion. **Vote: Not approved.**

**Motion:** to approve the Bylaws as presented. **MSA**

#### Council

Gavin Meek

The council will be nominating those to serve on the Committee on Representation/Nominations.

**Motion:** to approve Jacob Bolton to replace Taejoon Lee on CORN. There were no nominations from the floor. **MSA**

New Business

None

Attendance Proclamation

66 Teaching Elders and CREs  
51 Ruling Elder Commissioners  
16 Visitors, officers & staff  
133 TOTAL

**Motion:** to adjourn at 4:00PM. **MSA**

With no further business before the body, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 4:00PM. The next stated meeting will convene on Tuesday, May 23, 2017, at First Presbyterian Church of Goshen, 33 Park Place, Goshen, NY 10924, at 10:00AM, with registration at 9:30 AM.

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Teaching Elder Susan De George  
Stated Clerk

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Ruling Elder Wendy Spierling  
Journal Clerk