

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON RIVER
Presbytery Meeting
July 25, 2017

The Presbytery of Hudson River met in stated meeting on Tuesday, July 25, 2017, at Holmes Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center, Holmes, New York, 12531, and was convened at 2:00PM with prayer.

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

TE = Teaching Elder; RE = Ruling Elder, CRE = Commissioned Ruling Elder.

PHR website: 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 the addition of Heather Benedict's name next to the CORN Report in the minutes. (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 (Consent Agenda).

Introduction of New Ruling Elder Commissioners

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

Seating of Corresponding Members

No corresponding members present.

Minutes Readers

TE Jack Cabaness and RE Deb Pfau (All Souls Parish, Port Chester).

Welcome from Holmes Camp and Conference Center

Peter Surgenor welcomed presbytery to Holmes Camp and Conference Center.

Worship (Attachment III)

Ben Larson-Wolbrink preached the sermon. The offering was dedicated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to assist Glacier Camp in Montana in rebuilding their collapsed deck, and totaled \$714.

Community Conversations

- **HRP Green, Living Lightly on Mother Earth-** Kathy Dean leading
- **Reconciliation: Restorative Justice-** Hans Hallundbaek, Cathryn Surgenor and Emily Trautman leading
- **Habitat PresbyBuild Update-** Richard Spierling leading

- **Racism & Presbyterians-** Daniel Fullerton leading
- **Ways to Feed our Flock-** Marion Thomas leading

90 Second Announcements

Peter Surgenor offered prayer for the many events that were announced.

Moderator-elect Keith Brokaw assumed the chair.

Transition Team (Attachment IV)

Debra Bronkema

Transition Team believes that the Council is the appropriate entity to take over this work now and that it is committed to beginning the search process for members of the search committee to find a permanent General Presbyter. The plan would be for Council to have nominees by the September Presbytery meeting.

MOTION: for Council to determine the use of the funds from the Estate of Laurel Gouveia, in the amount of 2 million dollars, that she bequested to HRP. **MSA**

MOTION: to dissolve the Transition Team with much thanks and gratitude for their work. **MSA**

Council (Attachment V)

Gavin Meek

Three typos were corrected in the Committee on Representation and Nominations description: 1) Purpose: line 4, "advice" changed to "advise", 2) Membership: line 1, "s" added to member(s), 3) Responsibilities: line 2, "council" capitalized.

This document was further refined after the last meeting by Council, as described in the attached report.

MOTION: to approve the amended Committee on Representation and Nominations committee description as outlined above. **MSA**

MOTION: to approve the meeting schedule for 2018 with 4 Stated Meetings, one tentative summer meeting, plus a probable called meeting to hear the nomination of the new GP, as outlined in the attached report. **MSA**

Interim General Presbyter's Report

Gavin Meek

- Our Synod of the Northeast is sponsoring a "Come to the Table" Education event on September 21-23, 2017, at Stony Point Center. For more information go to: www.Synodne.org. Council will pay for half the registration fee for all HRP members who attend.
- Gavin spoke of a Transitional Ministry and Education PC(USA) event on November 17-18, 2017, lasting 24 hours, at Holmes. This event will help those churches that have gone from a fulltime pastor to part-time leadership.
- A search is on for a new Camp Director at Holmes Camp and Conference Center. Please contact Jim Burke on the Holmes Board, to recommend candidates. (Attachment VI)
- On Saturday, September 16, 2017, from 11am-5pm, there will be a Retirement Lunch for Peter Surgenor.
- Gavin reviewed the Presbytery's Vision, Values, Mission and Missionary Goals.
- Those in need of prayer were spoken of and prayed for by Gavin.

Faith and Order (Attachment VII)

Robert Trawick

Jeff Geary spoke passionately in favor of the White Plains Presbyterian Church Overture regarding divestment from fossil fuels. Faith and Order studied the overture and recommends approval.

Motion: to approve the proposed Overture outlined in (Attachment VI). **MSA**

Committee on Representation and Nominations

Heather Benedict

The Committee on Representation and Nominations recommends the following:

MSA the following resignations:

RESIGN

TE Ryan Kersting-Schlimgen

Committee on Ministry, 2019

Effective 12-31-17:

TE David Mason

Budget, Finance & Property, 2018

The committee's work for the future includes filling positions for Council, Moderator-Elect of HRP, and Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly in June of 2018. Heather encouraged prayerful consideration of possible nominees and recommendations to CORN.

Holmes Board (Attachment VI)

James Burke

Gavin outlined James' report in his absence.

Budget, Finance & Property/Trustees

Tom Buchanan

The Budget, Finance and Property Committee / The Trustees brings two items to the Presbytery for their vote. Note that the whole committee has not discussed these items as both of them came after our June meeting. Due to time constraints, we are asking the Presbytery to take action on these two rather routine items.

- 1) At the Council meeting of the White Plains Presbyterian Church on June 27, the Council voted to move forward with a request for the city of White Plains to designate the cemetery a local landmark under municipal code section 9-6-3(b). Rev. Geary had conversations with several BFP/T members who had no objections to the landmarking of this cemetery, given both its history and its location (adjacent to the sanctuary). The WPPC Council seeks concurrence by the Presbytery so that it can move forward with its request to the City of White Plains.

MOTION: to approve the designation of the White Plains Presbyterian Church's cemetery as a local landmark. **MSA**

- 2) If the way be clear, approve the request of the Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church to allow them to receive, as a gift/donation, a 2+ acre parcel that is adjacent to the church property and provides a natural buffer zone for the church. The deed stipulates that no building can be built on it. This approval assumes that the church has done its due diligence to see if the property has any encumbrances and how it's been used in the past, to be sure that there are no outstanding liabilities regarding the donated property.

MOTION: to approve the request to receive the gift/donation of the parcel of land mentioned above. **MSA**

Brook Administrative Commission Report (Attachment VIII)

Glenn Henricksen

Glenn summarized the attached report.

MOTION: to dismiss the Brook Church Administrative Commission. **MSA**

Stated Clerk's Report (Attachment IX)

Susan De George

- The minutes of the May 23, 2017 stated meeting of the Presbytery were read by TE Cathryn Surgenor and RE Susan Varden (Goshen). They recommend approval.
- Thank you to the Brook Church Administrative Commission.

MOTION: to approve the minutes of the Scarborough Presbyterian Church with exception. **MSA**

- Information concerning the creation of a discernment team for the Mount Vernon Church is in the attached report. A RE added to the Discernment Team from Mount Vernon Church is Debbie Woods.
- Please plan ahead to make any changes to property.
- Each church should have their own policy in their Manual of Operations, to deal with sick time for a pastor.
- The Permanent Judicial Commission met before this meeting and elected the following new PJC officers: Laurie McNeill-moderator, Harriet Sandmeier-secretary, for two years.

Commission on Ministry

Charles Low

- Martha Carlson was introduced and spoke about her Statement of Faith and something she is excited about in her new yoked position at Bethlehem and Washingtonville churches. Her husband Ed was also introduced.
- COM is reviewing a recommendation about Clergy Compensation. If approved, COM will send in the last pastor salary report that they have received, which will create a sense of conflict if not updated. We need your input, please get your terms of call forms in.
- Charles is on The Presbyterian Mission Agency Board PC(USA), and asked to have people's names submitted for the position of the next Executive Director. Please go to www.presbyterianmission.org, to make a recommendation.

New Business

None

Attendance Proclamation

49 Teaching Elders and CREs
28 Ruling Elder Commissioners
17 Visitors, officers & staff
94 TOTAL

6:00 PM Blessing for the Meal.

Motion: to adjourn at 6:00. **MSA**

With no further business before the body, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 6:00PM. The next stated meeting will convene on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at the Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, 6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY at 10:00AM, with registration at 9:30 AM.

Teaching Elder Susan De George
Stated Clerk

Ruling Elder Wendy Spierling
Journal Clerk