

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON RIVER  
Presbytery Meeting  
December 3, 2019

The Presbytery of Hudson River met in stated meeting on Tuesday, December 3, 2019, at Stony Point Center, Stony Point, NY, and was convened at 10:00AM with prayer.

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

"MA" = moved, approved, motions coming from committees, needing no second.

MWS=Minister of the Word and Sacrament; RE = Ruling Elder, CRE = Commissioned 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 Lori Knight-Whitehouse

Declaration of a Quorum Moderator Lori Knight-Whitehouse  
Moderator Lori Knight-Whitehouse declared a quorum was present.

Voting on the Docket

**Motion:** to vote on the Docket and Consent Agenda (Attachments I & II). The Conflict of Interest Policy was pulled from the Consent Agenda. **MSA**

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 MWS Carrie Mitchell, BOP (Genesee Valley). **MSA**

Minutes Readers

MWS Richard Spierling and RE James Ferguson (Calvary, Newburgh) are the minutes readers for this meeting.

Welcome from Stony Point Center

Paula Sandusky welcomed presbytery to Stony Point Center.

Worship (Attachment III)

Worship included Moderator Lori Knight-Whitehouse preaching, and Bright Tow, from Bethany Church, as pianist.

Joys and Concerns of the presbyters were shared, and prayers were expressed by Deborah Milcarek.

Today's offering will be to Christmas Joy, and totaled \$699.

Board of Pensions Presentation

Carrie Mitchell

Carrie spoke of the new CEO of BOP, Frank Clark Spencer, and his passion for change. Also reported were many of the benefits for its members.

### Census

Owen Borda

Owen spoke about the ways that the census will be taken next year. Information will be sent the end of March 2020, to churches, in hopes that an accurate count will be obtained. There is no sharing of information with any other organizations or people.

### Healthy, Vital Communities of Faith

John Miller

John shared information about an assessment tool titled *Holy Cow! Consulting* that Council has chosen as the presbytery's official assessment tool. This tool is very helpful in determining the future of your congregation. Four HRP churches have used it and are benefitting from its analysis.

### 60-Second Announcements

12:15 PM Blessing for the Meal.

Reconvened at 1:00

### Open Space

Small group conversations about important issues:

- ❖ BOP-Carrie Mitchell
- ❖ Census-Owen Borda
- ❖ Holy Cow! Consulting-John Miller
- ❖ Green Christmas-Kathy Dean and HRP Green Team
- ❖ Faith & Order overtures-Robert Trawick, Jeromy Howard, and Jeff Geary
- ❖ Solarize our Congregation-Gregory Simpson and Nina Orville
- ❖ Advent and Eschatology-Peter Johnson
- ❖ Church Leadership Struggles-Tricia Callahan

Moderator–Elect Constance Knapp assumed the chair.

### General Presbyter's Report

Deborah Milcarek

Deborah talked about her first year as GP, and her work toward living in the mission of the presbytery.

Moderator Lori Knight-Whitehouse assumed the chair.

### Council

Constance Knapp

For Action:

**Motion:** to approve the 2020 Budget. Discussion ensued. **MA** (Attachment IV)

**Motion:** to approve the Conflict of Interest Policy. Discussion ensued. **MA** (Attachment V)

Moderator-Elect Constance Knapp assumed the chair.

### Faith and Order Committee

Robert Trawick

**Motion:** to recommend to the Presbytery of Hudson River for approval to concurrence of an overture to the 224th General Assembly of the PC(USA), from the Session of White Plains Presbyterian Church, "on fossil fuel divestment". **MA** (Attachment VI)

**Motion:** to recommend to the Presbytery of Hudson River for approval an overture to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PC(USA), from the Session of First Montgomery Presbyterian Church, entitled "PCUSA Paid Family Leave." **MA** (Attachment VII)

**Motion:** to recommend to the Presbytery of Hudson River for concurrence an overture to the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the PC(USA), from the Presbytery of Beaver-Butler, entitled "On the authority of Presbyteries to define severance plans for installed ministers." **MA** (Attachment VIII)

Moving forward, GA would like presbyteries to add their own rationale for concurrence with an overture from another presbytery. Faith and Order would be happy to help a congregation do this.

Stated Clerk's Report (Attachment IX)

Susan De George

The minutes of the September 24, 2019 stated meeting of the Presbytery were read by MWS Martha Carlson and RE Kevin McEaney (Smithfield, Amenia). They recommend approval and were approved with the Consent Agenda. (Attachment II)

Your congregation's 2019 statistical report can be filed in the denominational database as early as Friday December 6, 2019 but must be filled out by Thursday, February 20, 2020. Please remember that the Session (not the congregation) must approve the report before you file it, so plan ahead and get it on your session docket now.

Additional information for clerks of session is in the attached report.

2019 Ordination anniversaries were recognized and celebrated.

Moderator-Elect Constance offered prayers of celebration for those recognized.

Committee on Representation and Nominations

Stephany Graham

The Committee on Representation and Nominations recommends the following:

1. Receive the following RESIGNATIONS: **MA**

MWS Jeffrey Geary from CPM

MWS Stephany Graham from CPM

MWS David Harkness from BFP

**No nominations from the floor for #2-#5 elections.**

2. ELECT the following to fill vacancies: **MA**

Committee on Ministry: MWS Kathleen Genus, 2021

RE Candidate Todd Young, 2021

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: MWS Jean-Paul Marshall, 2020

MWS Angela Maddalone, 2021

Council: RE David Burpee, 2020

3. ELECT the following, Class of 2022 unless otherwise noted: **MA**

Finance: MWS Paul Lent, 2020

RE Eugee Whyte, 2020

RE Keith Brokaw, 2021

MWS Lindley DeGarmo, 2021

RE Catherine Talbot

MWS Gregory Simpson **MA**

Camp & Conference Board: Lisa Harnisch, 2020

Stephanie Gould **MA**

Committee on Ministry: MWS Judith Anderson  
MWS Heather Finck  
RE Deidre Lewin  
MWS Daniel Love  
RE Yzette Swavy-Lipton  
RE Robert Trawick  
RE Anne Wood **MA**

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: RE David Frost  
MWS David Harkness  
RE Constance Knapp **MA**

Committee on Representation: MWS Andrew Paton, 2020  
RE Edgar Hayes, 2021  
MWS Peter Johnson, 2021  
MWS Stephany Graham  
MWS Sarah Henkel **MA**

Council: MWS Jonah So **MA**  
Faith & Order: RE Lynn Costa  
MWS Jeffrey Geary **MA**

GA Alternates for 2020: MWS Stephany Graham  
RE Yzette Swavy-Lipton **MA**

Grants: RE Kathy Dean  
MWS Jeniffer Rodriguez  
MWS Dorinda Violante **MA**

Moderator-Elect: MWS Dale Southorn **MA**

Personnel: RE Janice Anderson  
MWS Bebb Stone **MA**

Property: RE Kathy Davis, 2020  
RE James Ferguson, 2020  
RE Lynn Brown, 2021  
RE John Redman, 2021  
RE Gary Murphy  
MWS Peter Surgenor **MA**

Sweetwater Cultural Center Board: MWS Stephany Graham, 2021  
Gretchen Brokaw, 2021 **MA**

5. Elect the following to leadership roles:

MWS Paul Lent – chair, Finance Committee  
MWS Martin McGeachy – co-chair, Committee on Ministry  
RE Yzette Swavy-Lipton – co-chair, Committee on Ministry  
MWS Patricia Calahan – chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
MWS Stephany Graham – co-chair, Committee on Representation  
MWS Sarah Henkel – co-chair, Committee on Representation  
RE Robert Trawick – chair, Faith & Order Committee  
MWS Cathryn Surgenor – chair, Grants Committee  
RE Tom Albert – chair, Personnel Committee  
MWS Peter Surgenor – chair, Property Committee **MA**

We are pleased to announce that we are currently pursuing one last person to serve on COM, and that otherwise all slots for which we are responsible have been filled!

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Patricia Callahan

Erik Simon (Palisades) was introduced as a candidate.

Budget, Finance & Property

Peter Surgenor

- Mission pledges are due and may be sent to [Emily@hudrivpres.org](mailto:Emily@hudrivpres.org).
- **Motion:** to approve the proposed sale of a .44 acre portion of the property of the Pleasant Valley Presbyterian Church to the Pleasant Valley Library for \$275,000. **MA** (Attachment X)
- **Stewardship Workshops** are available. Contact Charles Barton to set a date.  
**For information:** Online Giving is important for your church. 81% of receipts come from individuals. 78% is given during worship services. 22% is received digitally. Online giving is increasing.

Committee on Ministry

Erin Moore & Yzette Swavy-Lipton

Welcome of new pastors:

- Dorinda Violante, Denton
- Duncan Nichol, HR

1. **Motion:** to approve the attached rubric of pastoral call hours understanding a full-time pastor's work week to be 40 hours. **MA** (Attachment XI)

**Motion:**

2. To approve a mandated 1.6 % COLA increase to the minimum effective salary for pastoral positions for 2020.
3. To approve a recommended 1.6 % COLA increase for all other pastoral positions in Presbytery congregations for 2020.
4. To approve a recommended 1.6% COLA increase for all church positions in Presbytery congregations for 2020. **MA** for #2-#4.

New Business

None

Attendance Proclamation

46 Teaching Elders and CREs  
23 Ruling Elder Commissioners  
11 Visitors, officers & staff  
6 Other voters  
TOTAL 86

**MOTION:** to adjourn at 3:35. **MSA**

With no further business before the body, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:35PM. The next stated meeting will convene on Tuesday, January 28, 2020, at the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, Yorktown Heights, NY, 10598, at 10:00AM, with registration at 9:30 AM.

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Minister of the Word and Sacrament  
Susan De George  
Stated Clerk

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Ruling Elder Wendy Spierling  
Journal Clerk

Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
28 January 2020  
Yorktown, NY

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry met on January 21, 2020 at the Presbytery office and moved the following:

To recommend Ryan Larkin to the Presbytery for examination for ordination.

Submitted by,  
Patricia Calahan, Chair

Presbytery of Hudson River  
28 January 2020, Yorktown, NY  
Ryan Larkin - Statement Of Faith

I trust in one triune God. God alone receives my worship and I serve God above all. I believe God created all things, concrete and intangible. God made God's people good; to love God and to be in relationship with God forever. God loves God's people and forgives. God has forgiven me and is forgiving me.

I trust in Jesus Christ, who walked the Earth, both fully human and fully God. Jesus was unjustly condemned by human judges and crucified. God raised Jesus from the dead, allowing Jesus and all God's children life eternal.

I trust in the Holy Spirit, who works in and through the world. The Holy Spirit creates community that sustains and heals. The Holy Spirit directs our faith and life through Scripture, claims us in baptism, gives us the limitless gifts and bounty of table fellowship, and calls people to all ministries. I rejoice that nothing in life or in death can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. I rejoice that a New Heaven and a New Earth is promised by the God of perfect promises.

I listen for God's word in all God's chosen forms. I speak with God often in prayer. I worship and serve God with others as we form the church together, with Jesus Christ as our sustainer, teacher, and head. I am taught by God's faithful servants. I try to lead, with the Holy Spirit's help, when I am so called. I try, in love, to equip the saints for their service, far beyond what I can do alone. I love God indescribably, both in breadth and depth. I try to find daily how to be more effective as Christ's hands and feet, as I am lovingly and brilliantly commanded.

I invite all to join in the journey with Christ, honoring those who have honest, compassionate paths similar to mine and different than mine. No words in those Holy Scriptures that inform the Christian Faith rightly makes a barrier preventing God from gathering up God's people into a perfect, loving embrace.

I love God's people and, out of that love, pray and work for peace for all in the world.

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON RIVER  
28 JANUARY 2020, YORKTOWN, NY  
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Committee on Ministry met on 10 December 2019 and 7 January 2020 and recommends the following:

1. Approve Carilyn Pattison for Pulpit Supply list.
2. Approve Cathryn Surgenor for PS list pending Boundary Training.
3. Approve 2020 Housing Allowance of \$12,698 for Susan De George.
4. Transfer Daniel Yang to Presbytery of NYC effective 12 November 2019.
5. Approve the Stated Supply contract for Mark Salmon effective 1 January – 31 December 2020, 19 hours per week: Salary 40000; Manse value 24000; Social Security Allowance 4437; Auto allowance 2000, by voucher; Study Leave 2 weeks and 1000, by voucher; Presbytery Group Life 201; Relocation allowance 3600 plus 275.40 SECA, by voucher; 38 days vacation.
6. Receive Mark Salmon from the Presbytery of Tampa Bay effective 1 January 2020.
7. Approve 2019 Terms of Call for Chip Low and Tami Seidel at Yorktown,  $\frac{3}{4}$  time each, terms each: Salary 67321; Pension and Benefits 24909; Social Security Allowance 5150; Presbytery Group Life 201; Car allowance 3375, by voucher; Study leave 2 weeks and 1500, by voucher; 31 days vacation.
8. Approve 2019 Terms of Call for Dale Southorn at Mount Kisco: Salary 83103; Manse value 23931; Pension and Benefits 39432; Social Security Allowance 8265; Study Leave 2 weeks and 1000, by voucher; Car allowance 2000, by voucher; Presbytery Group Life 201; 31 days vacation.
9. Approve 2019 Terms of Call for Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett at Larchmont: Salary 47033; Manse value 14410; Pension and Benefits 23104; Social Security Allowance 4777; Study Leave 2 weeks and 1000, by voucher; Auto Expense 2000, by voucher; Presbytery Group Life 201; Other allowances 2940; 31 days vacation.
10. Approved to inform the Monroe church that they may proceed with the call to someone from South Africa, a member of a non-PCUSA denomination which is a partner member denomination in the World Communion of Reformed Churches with the following requirements: to transfer to the PCUSA, the individual would need to complete Hebrew, Greek and Polity courses within 2 years or the call would need a  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote of Presbytery to grant exemption of any of the PCUSA ordination requirements.



11. Approve Lynn Costa to preside at Communion at Monroe throughout December 2019 and January and February 2020.
12. Approve, if the way be clear, John Ryan Larkin as part- time, Stated Supply, 30 hours per week, at Pine Plains, effective as of his ordination date, tbd., thru 31 December 2020. Mr. Larkin will be working as of 19 January 2020 as the candidate filling the position, with the following terms: Salary 31000; Housing Allowance 12345; Pension and Benefits 16201.40; Social Security Allowance 3315.89; Study Leave 2 weeks and 1000. Committee on Preparation for Ministry will be meeting to approve transfer of Mr. Larkin's candidacy from Mission Presbytery and subsequently to approve him for ordination. Martin McGeachy will continue to moderate the Pine Plains session until Mr. Larkin's ordination.
13. Approve George Stang and Etta Barbanti, having completed communion training, to preside at communion 5 January, 2 February, 1 March and 1 April, 2020 at Liberty, their church of membership.

Presbytery of Hudson River  
28 January 2020, Yorktown

**Mark Salmon Statement of Faith:**

There is a bumper sticker that still appears now and then that states, "God said it. I believe it. That settles it" That is some of the poorest theology I have ever heard. For me, GOD SAID IT. THAT SETTLES IT! I believe in the Triune God who created people in His own image and called humanity to reflect His holiness in obedience. We did not obey and entered into a state of moral corruption and became estranged from our very Creator. God entered into a Covenant of Grace with sinful people and initiated a plan of redemption. This plan is experienced in the very historical incarnation of God in the person of Jesus who was born to Mary. Jesus was the Christ of Hebrew Scriptures. He was fully man and fully God. He provided the very basis of our justification, which by the Grace of God, is received by faith alone. The Holy Spirit has been sent to live in the hearts of believers and empowers them to serve Almighty God in witness, worship, fellowship, and discipleship. The Holy Spirit brings God's people together to form the community of believers known as the Church. Jesus has established the visible church to live in the power of the Holy Spirit under the authority of the Holy Scriptures. The Church is to preach the true Gospel, administer the sacraments properly and maintain discipline. The Table of our Lord is also the only moment in our lives when we experience true equality during our earthly lives. I submit to the authority of the Bible. Only the Bible has the authority to bind the consciences of believers. God alone is infallible. I embrace Reformed theology as it is centered on God and based on God's Word alone. It is committed to the doctrine of FAITH ALONE which was the material cause of the Protestant Reformation. It is devoted to Jesus Christ and embraces the covenants that God has made. My eschatology is this: God wins-Satan loses!

## STATED CLERK'S ANNUAL REPORT

The Stated Clerk reports that the following annual report has been submitted to the Office of the General Assembly. It shows that the Presbytery of Hudson River as of 31 December 2019 consisted of 77 churches and 143 teaching elders. Members are identified in the following categories:

*Pastors, Co-Pastors, or Designated Pastors:* Bronkema, Cabaness, Calahan, Carbone, M. Carlson, Farley, Fox, Geary, Genus, Graham, Howard, Huff, Ives, Jones, Jun, Kingsley, Knight-Whitehouse, B. Larson-Wolbrink, Lent, Love, Low, Maddalone, McGeachy, McNeill, J. Miller, Moore, Paton, Seelman, Seidel, Simpson, Southorn

*Associate Pastors:* Finck, Marshall, Smith-Bartlett

*Interim Pastors:* Brown, Clemot, Larson, Vaughn

*Stated Supplies:* Anderson, Boyer, Brown-Huston, Chandler, Duncan, Ficarra-Cheatham, Grandgeorge, Hall, Panarotti, Peacock, Rivera-Torea, Rodriguez, Violante

*Serving in military:* Kersting-Schlimgen

*Serving in other denominations or churches:*, DeGarmo, Kent

*Other Validated:* Bingaman, DeGeorge, Diaz, Dunn, Ferguson, M. Harkness, Iosso, Mott, Muller, Northern, Phillips, Rundlett, Speers

*Special Mission Staff:* Koball

*Members at Large:* Henkel, G. Larson-Wolbrink, Lever, Morris, Pattison, So, Spencer

*Honorably Retired:* Alcorn, Baker, Barton, Benton, Boudier, Burger, E. Carlson, Chan, Choi, Crawford, DeHoff, Dent, Doering, Doster, Epps, Feroe, Garner, Gilmore, Hare, D. Harkness, Henricksen, Howland, Johnson, Kandle, Kennedy, Lamar, Lee, Leigh, Lunning, MacLennan, Martin, Mast, Mattos, McDonald, McKenzie, McLeod, Michie, C. Miller, Mills, Milz, Moody-Shepherd, Muffler, Nichol, Page, Poole, Porter, Putzig, Root, Snyder, Spierling, Steele, Stone, Sullivan, C. Surgenor, P. Surgenor, Ra. Thompson, Ri. Thompson, Tischler, Van Hoeven, Vande Berg, Wainwright, Walkup, Wallace, Watson, Weisenbach, White, C. Yang, Zanicky

*Temporary Member of Presbytery:* Acklam, Akers, Andritz, Groom, Lewis, T. Miller, Ngwa

## RECOMMENDATION FOR REDRESSING IMBALANCE

The Stated Clerk recommends, in accordance with G-3.0301, that *no* churches of the Presbytery be invited to send an additional ruling elder

commissioner to Presbytery meetings in 2020. Each ruling elder elected as an officer, each ruling elder elected General Presbyter or other exempt staff position shall be enrolled for the term of office, to make up any teaching-ruling elder imbalance. Additionally, former elder moderators of Presbytery who are currently active members of churches within the Presbytery and are not otherwise eligible for voice and vote through elected office shall be granted voice and vote. Additionally all RULING ELDERS currently serving on specific entities of the Presbytery, including Council; Committee on Ministry; Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Committee on Representation; Faith and Order Committee; Finance Committee; Grants Committee; Nominations Committee; Permanent Judicial Commission; Personnel Committee; Presbyterian Women’s Coordinating Team; and Property Committee.

Teaching Elders	143
Unable to attend because of distance, job commitment, or health	56
Total who might potentially attend and vote	87
<u>Churches</u>	77
Membership 501-1000 shall be represented by 2 ruling elders (Larchmont)	1
Membership 1000-1500 shall be represented by 3 ruling elders (Rye)	2
Officers and GP: Milcarek, W. Spierling	2
Former Elder Moderators (Brokaw, Garcia, Hooper-Peek, Mardenborough, Rossi, Trawick, Tyler)	7
Commissioned Ruling Elders (Buchanan, Devir, Frost, Hallundbaek, Sandmeier, Tompkins, Wood)	7
<i>Serving on specific entities of presbytery under bylaw ch 2, sect 1</i> ( Albert, Anderson, Behan, Benedict, F. Bishop, D. Burpee, Coss , Costa, Daniele, Davis, Dean, Dornbush, Duncan, Hartwig, Hayes, Janus, Kennard, Knapp, Lewin, A. Meade, R. Meade, N. Miller, Murphy, Redman, Scopaz, Smith, Steinnagel, Sutherland, Swavy-Lipton, Talbot, Upeslakis, Varden, Wason, Whyte, Young)	35
Total who could potentially attend and vote	134
Ruling Elders eligible to vote (134) exceeds total of Teaching Elders who might vote (87). Therefore there is no need to redress an imbalance.	

Stated Clerk's Report  
January 28, 2020

FOR ACTION

-C- The minutes of the December 3, 2019 stated meeting of the Presbytery were read by MWS MWS Richard Spierling and RE James Ferguson (Calvary, Newburgh). They recommend approval.

FOR INFORMATION

- Your congregation's **2019 statistical report** must be filled out by **Thursday, February 20, 2020**. Please remember that the Session (not the congregation) must approve the report before you file it so plan ahead and get it on your session docket now.
- 2020 Clergy ID cards will not be mailed out by the denomination until late in February 2020. Please note that current IDs don't expire until March 1, 2020.
- Save the date: the annual **Clerk of Session workshop and minute reading** will be on **Sunday, May 3, 2020** beginning 2 pm at the Stony Point Center. Session records for 2019 will be examined at that gathering. More information about the gathering, as well as the checklist to be completed by each Clerk of Session, will be emailed out in early 2020.
- Pursuant to D-5.0206b, *the stated clerk of the council shall keep a current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years.... The stated clerk shall report the roster annually to the council.* This roster includes:

Class of 2018: Linda Burpee, Sam Speers

Class of 2016: Doris Kersten, Martin McGeachy

Class of 2014: Kirk Bingaman, Heather Finck

Susan G. De George

For Action:

The Property Commission recommends that HRP approve the sale of the manse of the Scarborough Presbyterian Church at 191 Revolutionary Road for \$630,000.

The appraised value in April 2019 was \$725,000 for 1.58 acres zoned for single family occupancy. Located in an historic district, it is 3500sq ft with 5 bedrooms and 2 1/2 bath, plus a full walk-up attic and basement and detached garage. Some updates were made in the early 1970's and 1990's but it needs new baths and kitchen and has an older furnace, plumbing, and wiring. It has been on the market since the end of May, originally listed at \$684,900 and reduced by \$10,000 in the fall. The feedback from almost every realtor was that it needed too much work for that price and this is the best offer received. If it were sold today, \$630,000 is still a price higher than 165 of the 190 homes sold for in the last year in the Ossining School District.

For Information:

#### **Church Purchase of Property.**

–Pursuant to the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), real property transferred to a Presbyterian church of congregation within the bounds of the Presbytery shall include the following language in the deed: **The premises herein conveyed shall be used, kept and maintained by the grantee for Divine Worship and other purposes of its ministry as a congregation with in the Presbytery of Hudson River or its successor in interest, subject to the provisions of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA).**

--If a property is purchased without encumbrance, no permission of the Property Committee is required. Presbytery is, though, to be notified of such a purchase before it happens and is to provide a legal description of the property to the Property Committee once the purchase has been completed.

--If a property is purchased encumbered by loan or mortgage approval of the Property Committee and possibly HRP is required. The sales contract will require language indicating approval of Superior Court required for completion and details of the loan/mortgage proposed.

--If a proposed encumbrance will require guarantee by the Presbytery (commitment of reserve funds), the Property Committee will inform the Finance Committee (and the Presbytery if necessary) for opinion before action is taken.

--Any loan request in excess of \$250,000 shall be further approved by HRP's Council after it has received approval from the Property Committee.

#### **Church Sale of Property**

Please note information required to apply for permission noted below.

(Examples of the kinds of transactions within the scope of the Property Commission include, but are not limited to, the following:

-Outright sale of real property, whether acquired by purchase or gift

- The granting or creation of any easement, covenant, license or profit on real property, with or without any consideration being paid
- Any loan secured by a lien on any real property for any purpose
- Any mortgage to purchase a manse
- Any mortgage in order to remodel existing facilities or build new facilities
- Any lease of any real property for a stated or potential term of more than five (5) years, including cell tower leases or any other telecommunications lease or easement
- Any lease, for any term, of real property used for worship purposes, whether structured as a formal lease or simply as a sharing arrangement
- Acceptance of any gift of real property that is subject to any lien, lease, or other encumbrance
- Any renewal, modification, or extension of any loan transaction previously approved by the presbytery

--Any request by a congregation for approval of the sale of real property used for purposes of worship shall be further approved by the body of Hudson River Presbytery after the request has received approval from the Property Committee.

--Any request by a congregation for approval of the sale of a manse shall be approved by the Committee on Ministry before being approved by the Property Committee

### **Information required to request approval of Sale of Property**

(Because the sale of church owned (and not for profit organization) properties requires approval of the County Superior Court of the Attorney General of the State of New York, the following documentation needs to be compiled.)

- A. The sales contract must include language indicating that the sale will not be complete until Superior Court approval is granted. A copy of the sales contract must be provided with the proposed sale amount indicated.
- B. A Professional Appraisal. This is a lengthy document indicating physical description of the property, photos if relevant, assessed value, comparable properties and more. This document is prepared by an agent not involved party of the sale.
- C. Attestation of affirmative action by the church Session and affirmative action at a Congregational meeting.
- D. If the proposed sale price is less than the Appraisal Value an explanation for acceptance of a lower sale price shall be attached to the request for approval
- E. After consideration by the Property Committee the proposed sale may be approved according to authority granted by the Presbytery or the Commission will develop a recommendation for action by the Presbytery.

Presbytery of Hudson River  
Council Report  
28 January 2020

On 21 January 2020 the Presbytery Council met and approved the following:

1. For the Nominating Committee Council recommends RE Heather Benedict as chair, 2020; MWS Cliff Acklam, class of 2022; MWS Bruce Tischler, class of 2023.
2. For the position of Presbytery Treasurer, Council recommends MWS Gregory Simpson be approved as Presbytery Treasurer (if the way be clear).



# Lenten Zero Waste Challenge

Your congregation is invited to participate  
in the Zero Waste 2020 Lenten Challenge.

Good stewardship of God's earth the reward + win prizes! Here's how:

- 1. ZERO paper, plastic, or Styrofoam cups at church events**
  - Bring your own water bottle or coffee mug to worship
  - Use compostable containers and then compost
  - Use church supplied ceramic mugs
- 2. Use cloth napkins and table coverings during church events**
  - NO disposable plastics
- 3. Avoid bringing products containing plastic into the church building. Prepare food at home, look for products that contain minimal plastic, bring in reusable containers.**
- 4. If your congregation is already practicing Zero Waste Initiatives, the challenge is to add another Zero Waste activity to your current actions.**

All congregations that make a Zero Waste effort during Lent will be named in April Hudson Happenings and given awards at the April Presbytery Meeting.

**Rewards - if your congregation attains:**

**1 goal - certificate**

**2 goals - Water filter that attaches to faucet  
OR a case of WHO GIVES A CRAP toilet paper**

**3 goals - Water filter and replacement filters**

**Congregations will self-report on progress to  
hrpgreen40@gmail.com by Easter Monday, April 13, 2020**

