

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