

## PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON RIVER

Presbytery Meeting

June 9, 2020

The Presbytery of Hudson River met in stated meeting on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, on Zoom and was convened at 10 am.

Note: “MSA” = moved, seconded, approved.

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

MWS = Minister of Word and Sacrament; RE = Ruling Elder, CRE = Commissioned Ruling Elder.

PHR website: [www.hudrivpres.org](http://www.hudrivpres.org).

### Call to Gather the Presbyters for God’s Business

Moderator Constance (Connie) Knapp

### Declaration of a Quorum

Moderator Connie Knapp

Moderator Connie Knapp declared a quorum was present.

### Introduction to Using Zoom in a Presbytery Meeting

Casey Carbone

MWS Casey Carbone, HRP’s Technology Consultant, described the essential features of Zoom.

### Voting on the Docket

**MSA** the Docket and Consent Agenda (Attachments I & II-A.)

NB: For this meeting, the Stated Clerk’s report is part of the Consent Agenda (Attachment II-B.)

### Introduction of New Minister of Word and Sacrament

Katherine Pater (Scarsdale Hitchcock)

### Introduction of New Ruling Elder Commissioners

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

### Seating of Corresponding Members

**MSA** to seat MWS Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (Presbyteries of Boston and Northern New England)

### Minutes Readers

MWS Chip Low (Yorktown) and RE Deborah Pfau (Port Chester All Souls) are the minutes readers for this meeting.

Moderator Connie Knapp opened the meeting with a prayer “after a natural disaster” from the Book of Common Worship.

### Worship

Moderator-Elect Dale Southorn led worship, which included Deborah Milcarek preaching, and the participation of Amaury Tañón-Santos, Synod Networker for the Synod of the Northeast, Abbie Huff, Cathryn Surgenor, Martha Carlson and Bryce Wiebe, Director, Special Offerings, PC(USA) with Garrett Artman from FPCY at the piano and Terrence Flanagan from MKPC at the organ. Dale ended worship with prayer and benediction.

Today’s offering, totaling \$570 will go to PC(USA)’s Pentecost offering.

Connie Knapp thanked Wendy Spierling for her work from 2004 to 2019 as Journal Clerk, and she wished the best to Bruce Baker, who is moving to Baltimore.

### Committee on Ministry

Martin McGeachy and Yzette Swavy-Lipton

Martin McGeachy introduced MWS Katherine Pater, Associate Pastor at Hitchcock, Scarsdale.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry (Attachment III)

Patricia Calahan

Patricia Calahan introduced Hannah Scanlon, from the Pleasantville PC, MWS candidate.

Grants Committee

Cathryn Surgenor

Cathy Surgenor reported on the seven Challenge to Change grants awarded by the committee. The committee approved a Legacy grant for the new online worshipping community, "Connect.Faith" ([www.connect.faith](http://www.connect.faith)). At least 26 churches received Congregational Connection grants funded by the presbytery to better connect with the community. The committee funded an emergency Legacy grant to support a 3,000 PPE mask project in Orange County. A Legacy grant writing workshop was held on June 6, 2020 on Zoom.

Personnel Committee

Tom Albert

Tom Albert thanked Casey Carbone, HRP's Technology Consultant, for his ongoing help with online worship, technology, and the current HRP meeting. Tom announced that the hours of Susan De George have been increased to 40 hours. He thanked Noelle Damico for her time with HRP as Director of Communications.

Property Committee

Peter Surgenor

Peter Surgenor encouraged churches to take good care in maintaining their properties.

Nominating Committee (Attachment IV)

Heather Benedict

After a chance for nominations from the floor, **MSA** resignation of Lori Knight-Whitehouse from Council, and of Russell Duncan and Laurie Spencer from the Committee on Ministry.

Moderator-Elect Dale Southorn assumed the chair.

Council (Attachment V)

Connie Knapp

Constance Knapp indicated that according to the presbytery by-laws, due to the resignation of Lori Knight-Whitehouse, Connie will be the moderator of Council this year and next and she reported on several actions that the Council has taken recently.

After a chance for nominations from the floor, **MSA** MWS Debra Bronkema to the Nominating Committee, class of 2023.

Moderator Connie Knapp assumed the chair.

Report from the Harrison Administrative Commission (Attachment VI)

Daniel Love

MA dismissing the Harrison Administrative Commission (Bruce Baker, Dan Love, Scott Ramsey, Lisa Niven, Georgia Ridel) with thanks.

Report from the Pine Bush Administrative Commission (Attachment VII)

Heather Benedict

**MA** dismissing the Pine Bush Administrative Commission (Bruce Baker, David Kingsley, Heather Benedict, Corinne Geoghegan) with thanks at the end of the sale of the Graham's AT&T stock.

Report from the Stony Point Administrative Commission (Attachment VIII)

Robert Trawick

**MA** dismissing the Stony Point Administrative Commission (Rob Trawick, Lori Knight-Whitehouse, Michael Shapiro, Bebb Stone, Eugee Whyte) with thanks at the end of the sale of their stocks.

Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church Earth Care Certification

Connie Knapp congratulated the Freedom Plains congregation for achieving Earth Care certification.

Moderator-Elect Dale Southorn assumed the chair.

Commissioning of HRP Commissioners to 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly

Cindy Kohlmann

Dale introduced MWS Cindy Kohlmann. Cindy conducted the service of commissioning for: RE David Burpee from Bedford, MWS Jeffrey Geary, RE Connie Knapp from Yorktown, MWS Erin Moore, and Young Adult Advisory Delegate Luke Torres-Rossi from Yorktown.

Break-Out Groups

Presbyters were randomly grouped in break-out rooms, and Deborah Milcarek asked them to reflect for a few minutes on the following question: "From your perspective, what does it mean to be the church in our world today?" Representatives from each group shared.

Attendance Proclamation

67 Teaching Elders and CREs  
33 Ruling Elder Commissioners  
14 Other voters  
12 Visitors  
TOTAL: 126.

**MSA** to adjourn after a "Prayer for a Pandemic" by Cameron Bellm, and watching a video by J. Herbert Nelson, Stated Clerk, PC(USA) on racial violence.

With no further business before the body, the meeting was adjourned at 2:24pm. The next stated meeting will convene on **Tuesday, September 22, 2020** at 10:00 am on Zoom.

---

MWS Susan De George  
Stated Clerk

---

RE Christine Lazarus  
Journal Clerk