

**Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley Assembly
 Minutes of Tuesday, June 8, 2010
 Guilford Center Presbyterian Church
 124 County Rd. 36, PO Box 56, Guilford, NY 13780 (607) 895-6465**

2010 Presbytery Theme: Grow the Church Deep & Wide

June 8, 2010 Grow in Discipleship: Rediscover Scripture, including daily reading and study. Nurture relationships with Jesus Christ in the context our reformed heritage.

Stated Clerk Janet Adair Hansen gave a brief orientation at 4:50 PM, “Walk through the docket.” She highlighted changes to the Proposed Agenda and items on the Consent Agenda.

Moderator Elder Chris Burger called the meeting to order at 5:02 PM with prayer. The Moderator asked the Stated Clerk, who responded that a quorum was present. The assembly was **welcomed** by elder and Commissioned Lay Preacher **Terri Barnhart**. **Guilford Center Presbyterian Church** was 200 years old in 2007. They are small in number but mighty in mission, supporting food pantries for Mt. Upton and Guilford. They also have a sister church in Mississippi (since Hurricane Katrina) and this past year have provided clothing, school supplies and toys to military chaplains in Afghanistan – which have been distributed to a couple hundred villages around Kabul.

First time commissioners introduced included: Barb Bartholomew (Binghamton, First), Ward Jenkins (Endicott, First), Doris Fuller (Nineveh), Edith Benson & Meg Wahl – (Hancock), Marsha Biers (Charlotte Valley), and the Rev. Dave Johnson (new Interim, Binghamton, West).

Assembly Roll

CHURCH	Sept. 16, 2009	Dec. 5, 2009	March 6, 2010	June 8, 2010
Afton	Eugenia Peters	Eugenia Peters	Lynn Reeves	Charles Decker
Andes	JoAnn Kaufman	Dorothy Rider	Teresa Reynolds	Walter Gladstone
Bainbridge	Don Robertson	Cheryl Nages		Evelyn S. Baker
Binghamton, First	Patty Wilson	Suzie Northrop Raboy		Barbara Bartholomew
Binghamton, Immanuel			Norma Bergmann	Norma Bergmann
Binghamton, John Hus			Mark Doolittle	
Binghamton, Ross Memorial			Gladys Wasser	Gladys Wasser
Binghamton, West	Bonnie Wheeler	Bonnie Wheeler	Bonnie Wheeler	Bonnie Wheeler
Bovina Center			Tom Hilson	
Cincinnatus	Fred Downs	Fred Downs		
Conklin	Dana Wolfe			
Cortland, United	Thomas Bonne	William J. Haight		
Cortlandville, Christ	Judy Garnar	Nancy Thane	Nancy Thane	Nancy L. Thane
Charlotte Valley		Laura Lawson	Kim Downey	Marcia Biers
Cabin Hill	Jean Bright	Carol Stevens		
De Lancey			Kristen Baxter	
Delhi First	Ed Goff	Ed Goff	Al Perkins	

Delhi United Ministry			Fred Onash	excused
West Delhi	Bruce Hoyt	Steven R. Fleming	Steven Fleming	Bruce Hoyt
Deposit				
Dryden	David Smith	David Smith	David Smith	David Smith
East Guilford	Kathy Williams	Sandra Egli	Kathy Williams	Alice Ohl
Endicott First	Pam Davis	Pam Davis	Wendell Sprague	Ward M. Jenkins
Endicott Union	Mitch Mueller	Susan Troy	Susan Troy	Sue Troy
Endwell Northminster	Craig Zentz	Sam A. Lupo Jr.	Kathryn Close	Paul Kindig
Garrattsville				
Gilbertsville				Roberta Halbert
Guilford Center	Terri Barnhart	Joyce Starr-Cain	Terri Barnhart	Joyce Starr-Cain
Hamden	Karen Marshfield		Karen Marshfield	Meg Wahl
Hancock			Alice Prince	
Hobart			Lisa J. Costantze	Excused
Ithaca	Jane McGonigal			
Johnson City	Linda Breffle	Glenna Coutts	Glenna Coutts	Glenna Coutts
Laurens	S TerBush		Beverly Ballard	Sue Hoyt
Lordville			Callie Brunelli	Callie Brunelli
Marathon	Joanne Rienhardt	Joanne Rienhardt		
Margaretville/New Kingston	Shirley Davis		Shirley Davis	
Masonville		Michele Howard		Wendy Caldiero
Nichols	Andrea Seeley		Andrea Seeley	Andrea Seeley
Nineveh	Doris White	Carol Bartlett		Doris Fuller
Oneonta First	Barbara Means	Cynthia Goertemoell	Eleanor Hickein	Barb Means
Oneonta First United	Nadine Stenson	Nadine Stenson	Nadine Stenson	
Otego		John W. Truscott		
Owego	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King	Leslie Anne King
Smithville Flats		Joan Barker	Diane P. Merrill	Diane Merrill
Stamford		Fred Doyle	Robert Graves	Bob Graves
Unadilla	Brian Danforth	Dan Kleeschulte	Louise Lesh	
Walton	Dan Patsos	Carl Mugglin	Duane Merrill	Charlie Mays
Waverly	Dale Barber	Dale Barber	Dale Barber	Dale Barber
Windsor	Shirley Crowley			
Worcester				excused
TOTAL	33	32	36	30

Status	CLERGY	Sept. 16, 2009	Dec. 5, 2009	March 6, 2010	June 8, 2010
	Abel, Janet			present	present
HR	Amalfitano, Frank		present	present	excused
at large	Baker, Clyde			present	present
HR	Bartel, Joanne	present			
HR	Beattie, Douglas G				
at large	Berlik, Victoria	present	present	present	present
HR	Bjorkman, Leonard			present	
	Bridges, Parrish L	present	present		excused
CLP	Budine, George	_____	_____	present	
CLP	Davis, Shirley	_____	_____	present	
HR	De Noyelles, Roger				
	Devine, Janice P	present	present	present	present
	Devine, Timothy M	excused	present	excused	present
HR	Dittman, Sharon J		retired		
HR	Downing, Barry				
gov body	Elfond, Cheryl Ann	present	present	present	present
HR	Early, Vincent				
CLP	Fleming, Deborah	present	present	present	present
	Francis, Dale			present	excused
CLP	Gage, Judi	present	present	present	excused
	Gay, John	present	excused		excused
	Goodin, Susan	present	present	present	present
	Hansen, Janet Adair	present	present	present	present
	Hatch, Douglas	_____	present	present	present
	Heckman, Lisa S.	present	present	present	excused
at large	Heinle, Robert H	excused		present	present
	Hendrian, Linda	excused	excused	excused	excused
	Henery, James	present	excused		excused
HR	Hicks, James E	present			
	Horne, Douglas A	present	present	present	present

	Howard, Robert	present		excused	present
	Hummel, Cynthia Huling	excused	present	present	present
	Johnson, David H.	_____	_____	_____	present
HR	King, Marie				
valid min	Mattice, Taryn B				
	Mays, Lisa Ruth	present	present	present	excused
HR	Miller, Dean				
	Montfort, Mark	present	present	present	present
	More, H Adelbert III	excused		present	excused
UCC	Myers, Harry	present		present	present
	O'Hara, Diarmuid	present	present	present	present
	Peak, Robert T	excused	present	present	present
	Presby, Allen L	present	present	present	present
	Raube, Patricia	present	present	present	present
HR	Renton, Barbara A				
	Robinson, David C	excused	present	present	present
HR	Rynick, George M III				
	Schaeffer, Jill	present	present	present	
at large	Schwartz, Barbara	present	present	present	present
	Shepard, Lynn	present	present	present	present
	Starzer, Stephen W	excused	excused	present	excused
	Styron, Monica	present	present	excused	excused
	Suggs, Arthur M				
HR	Sunderwirth, Alfred D				
	Swanson, Steven	_____	present		present
HR	Thomas, Ronald				
	Tyler, Emrys	present	present	present	present
UMC	Vink, Martha	present			excused
	Walton-Leavitt, Cynthia	present	present	present	
HR	Wemple Jr, Delbert				
UMC	Wenner, Sue	present		present	excused
CLP	White, Doris	present		present	excused

Wilson, Carol	present	present	present	present
Wolff, Patty	present	present	present	excused

Total **32 + 2 CLP** **27+ 2 CLP** **35+3 CLP** **26 + 1 CLP**

Status Codes: HR = Honorably Retired; CLP = Commissioned Lay Pastor; valid min = Validated Ministry; at large = member at large; UMC = temporary member, United Methodist Church minister; UCC = temporary member, United Church of Christ minister

ELDER (“equalized”)	Sept. 16, 2009	Dec. 5, 2009	March 6, 2010	March 6, 2010
Bell, Jack - Treasurer	present		excused	excused
Burger, Chris – Vice-Moderator	present	present	present	present
Folmer, John - Council			excused	excused
Gray, JoAnn – PW, Council	present	present	present	present
Myers, Marilyn – Nominating Chair	present	present	present	present
Maxwell, Lorraine – COR Chair			excused	excused
Schwengber, Janet – CoLP Chair	present	present	present	present
Wise-Hostetter, Joan – COM Co-Chair	present	present	present	excused
Total	6	5	5	4

No Corresponding Members:

Visitors: Edythe Benson (Hancock), Enid Carter (Bovina Center), Fred Doyle (Stamford), Ruby Fiene (Smithville), Maureen Kennedy (Delhi First), Craig Kunkle (Inquirer), Brad McFall (SCE), Joan Oliver (Owego), Linda Riddell (Oneonta First), John Schwartz (Ithaca, Co-Chair Ethiopian Partnership ministry team).

Total Tally of Presbytery Commissioners

Ministers Present: 26	Churches Represented by an Elder: 30
Corresponding Members: 0	Corresponding Member (elder): 0
Total Ministers: 26	Commissioned Lay Pastors Present: 1
Ministers Excused: 14	Other Voting Elders Present: 4
Ministers Absent Without Excuse: 3	Total Elders Present: 35
APA Members: 0	Commissioned Lay Pastors Absent: 2
Churches Requesting Excuse: 3	Commissioned Lay Pastors Excused: 2
Visitors: 10	Churches Not Represented: 21

The Moderator noted the proposed agenda and then drew attention to the **Consent Agenda**. The Rev. Barbara Schwartz (at-large) requested that the Stated Clerk Report be lifted out.

Consent Agenda for June 8, 2010 Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley assembly meeting

THE FOLLOWING ITEMS WILL BE ADOPTED WITH ONE MOTION.

Action items are considered approved and information items are considered received when adopting a Consent Agenda.

Any voting member may remove a specific item or complete report for later debate, question or separate action. This is done by a simple request at the time the Consent Agenda is presented.

4-30-10 Financial Reports - to be received (*appended to end of meeting minutes*)

- PSV Financial Recap
- PSV Statement of Financial Position
- PSV Statement of Budgeted Activities
- PSV Statement of Non-Budgeted Activities
- PSV Per Capita and Mission Giving

Committee on Ministry Report

- **Action item #2 Recommend Presbytery authorize the Lordville Presbyterian Church Clerk of Session, Callie Brunelli, to administer communion during 2010 summer worship at the Lordville Church per Book of Order G-11.0103z.**
- **Action item #3 Recommend that authorization given to Commissioned Lay Pastor Shirley Davis to the Margaretville/New Kingston Church to perform the additional function of performing services of Christian marriage (G-14.0562d) be removed until she receives the necessary instruction.**
- **Action item #4 Recommend approval of the 2010 Terms of Call for Ministers of Word and Sacrament as indicated on the spreadsheet (*included with COM Report*)**

Council Report

- **Action item to adopt Confidentiality Policy (*included with Council Report*)**

Administrative Commissions

Incorporate by appending to the June 8, 2010 minutes of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley assembly meeting at Guilford Center United Presbyterian Church:

- **Minutes and Report from Garrattsville Administrative Commission**

The Administrative Commission replacing the Garrattsville Session was appointed at the June 16, 2009 Presbytery Assembly. Minutes from Feb. 4, 2010, Mar. 11, 2010 and Apr. 9, 2010. (Minutes from Oct. 22, 2009, Dec. 3, 2009 and Jan. 7, 2010 previously appended to March 6, 2010 presbytery minutes.)

Action item from Report: To dismiss with thanks the Administrative Commission for the Garrattsville Presbyterian Church effective the date of installation of a new Session (after the G-14.0240 required study and preparation and examination).

- **Six Month Report from Barbara Schwartz Administrative Commission**

The Administrative Commission working with the Rev. Dr. Barbara Schwartz was appointed at the December 5, 2009 Presbytery Assembly. They were to report after six months, and again when completing their work (within 12 months). When they finish their work they will need to be dismissed with thanks, their minutes submitted to the Stated Clerk to be incorporated with the presbytery record, and their records turned over to the Committee on Ministry co-chairs.

Moderator Burger called for a motion to **approve the Consent Agenda**, seconded, passed on a voice vote. The Rev. Emyrs Tyler (Nineveh) then commended Elder Brunelli for her willingness to do this valuable service for her local church (which has summer services only) by studying so many books and seeking authorization to serve communion, but said he hadn't wanted to lift the action out of the Consent Agenda. Moderator Burger humorously pointed out that he just had, and reminded the assembly it was okay to lift something out of a Consent Agenda for non-controversial reasons.

[Elder Callie Brunelli Written Statement]

My understanding of Presbyterian Communion.

Communion, Eucharist, the Lord's Supper – all are ways of referring to the sacrament given us by Christ to commemorate his life, death and resurrection until he comes again. It is the breaking of bread and sharing of wine with the Christian Community in our own congregation and in unity with fellow Christians around the world. It is an “outward and visible sign of an inward, invisible Grace”, I learned when I joined Lordville Presbyterian Church many years ago.

The word Communion means just that – a community of believers holding a common ceremony to commune with other believers and our Lord. It is an act of community – serving each other and partaking together, whether in large groups or small and extends through the Holy Spirit to our brothers and sisters around the world.

Eucharist is another term given this same ceremony, lifting it up as a thanksgiving to the triune God for the life and resurrection of Christ. Although done as a reminder of Christ's great sacrifice by giving his life for us, it is a celebration that He has risen and given us the great gift of everlasting life.

The Lord's Supper is still another way to refer to this celebration. We are reminded that Christ instituted this remembrance at a communal Passover Seder celebrated with his disciples on night he was betrayed. He took the traditional Passover meal and created from it a way for believers to remember and celebrate His life, death and resurrection. And with that celebration, we are commissioned to go out and spread the gospel to those who don't yet know Christ.

Which ever term is used, or if we alternate between them, the ceremony itself has been one of the catalysts of change since the Reformation. Belief about the meaning and substance of the sacrament itself are part of the divisions among Christian denominations. The belief of the Catholic Church is that the bread and wine actually change into the body and blood of Christ when received. At the other end of the spectrum, the Anabaptist belief is that it is just a ceremony to remember the Last Supper, with no spiritual component at all. As Presbyterians, we follow a middle road. The teaching of Calvin and the belief of Presbyterians, myself included, is that although the bread and wine don't transform physically into the body and blood of Christ, the celebration is a spiritual union between us and Christ, through the Holy Spirit within us, bringing participants the blessing of being one with Christ while celebrating this sacrament.

As Presbyterians, worship leaders are guided by the requirements, guidelines and suggestions in the “Directory for Worship” in the Book of Order. That includes gathering around the Word, proclaiming

the Word, responding to the Word, Celebrating the Sacraments and bearing the Word into the world. At the same time, leaders and churches have a freedom to choose how parts of the service are fulfilled.

I understand that in being authorized to serve Holy Communion for Lordville Presbyterian Church I have the responsibility to learn the history, and understand and serve this Sacrament in the proper form. I feel that I am prepared to do that.

Sincerely;
(Elder) Callie Brunelli

Books, websites and articles I read in my journey and used to prepare the Communion Service I practiced with you.

Books:

Bible – New King James version – specifically for Communion I used:

Matthew 26:17-30
Mark 14:12-26
Luke 22:7-23
John 6:22-59
1 Corinthians 10:16-17; 11:23-34
2 Corinthians 5:16-21
Colossians 3:12-17

Presbyterian Book of Order – Directory for Worship parts on Sacraments

Presbyterian Book of Confession

The Service for the Lord's Day – Supplemental Liturgical Resource 1

Calvin for Armchair Theologians by Christopher Elwood – pp 109-115

The Reformation for Armchair Theologians by Glenn S, Sunshine – Chapter 5

Introduction to Christian Worship by James B. White – Chapter 8 - “The Eucharist”

The Presbyterian Source by Lewis B, Weeks – Chapter 13 “This is My Body

Presbyterian Worship – A Guide for Clergy by J. Dudley Weaver Jr. - read whole book

A Primer for Presbyterians by J. Dudley Weaver Jr. - read whole book

Resources from Internet:

PCUSA website – <http://www.pcusa.org/navigation/whoweare.htm>

What Presbyterians Believe Series from Presbyterians Today (May 1995)–

“Communion “By Melva Wilson Costen

“The Sacrament of Christ's Sustaining Presence” by James Ayers

“Last Supper and Lord's Supper” - Sermon by Dr. Michael A. Roberts given March 6, 2005 at First Presbyterian Church of Georgetown, Texas based on Luke 22:14-20

Question from the floor came as to whether the Agenda itself had yet been voted on and approved. The Moderator responded that he was waiting to see if there was any new business to be added. Hearing none, **motion to adopt the proposed Agenda was made, seconded, and approved by voice vote.**

The motion to approve the **minutes of the December 5, 2009 Assembly** was brought back onto the floor after being postponed from the March 6th assembly with a pending motion from the Rev. Barbara Schwartz (at large) to replace the itemized list of responsibilities of the Schwartz Administrative Commission with “The two decisions of the Synod of the Northeast’s Permanent Judicial Commission and the Settlement Agreement are attached to the minutes of the Sept. 5th, 2009 Presbytery meeting.” The Moderator ruled the motion out of order because minutes are to reflect actions of the body, not change them, and the motion to substitute would have replaced language lifted directly from the motion charging the Administrative Commission to work with the Rev. Dr. Schwartz as adopted by the December 5, 2009 Assembly.

The Rev. Dr. Schwartz then asked permission to speak to the assembly before the vote on the minutes was taken with prepared remarks and said she withdrew her previous motion. After speaking for several minutes about her concerns that the list of responsibilities given the Administrative Commission were “inaccurate” and arguing that “the Settlement Agreement was authoritative” as she admitted the Administrative Commission working with her understood, and being reminded by the Moderator that the motion on the floor was to approve minutes from last December, she concluded by stating she wished to make a motion to affirm the “primacy of the 2009 Settlement Agreement.” The Moderator pointed out she was out of order to present a new motion because there was already a motion on the floor to approve the December 5, 2009 minutes. The Rev. Emrys Tyler (Nineveh) then suggested that Barbara’s intended motion be put in the appropriate place as new business. With no objection from the assembly, the Moderator agreed and went back to the main motion of approving the minutes of December 5, 2009. The Rev. Dr. Schwartz wished to speak again. The Moderator called for any other corrections to the minutes. Hearing none, the vote was called for. **The presbytery minutes of December 5, 2009 as corrected (names, spelling) were approved** with one “no” vote from Schwartz.

The proposed **minutes of the March 6, 2010 presbytery assembly** that met at First Presbyterian Church in Delhi, NY were then moved and seconded. The Moderator called for corrections. There being none, the minutes were approved.

The Stated Clerk then proceeded with the **Roll Call of Churches** with church commissioners coming forward to light candles representing their church. The Stated Clerk reminded the assembly that “We are the presbytery.”

The committee reports began at 5:42 PM with the Committee on Ministry. COM Co-Chair Mark Montfort (Oneonta, First) brought the first action item:

1. Recommend commissioning Elder Janet Schwengber as part-time Commissioned Lay Pastor for Stamford Presbyterian Church effective June 13, 2010 to June 13,2011 and authorize her to perform the additional functions in G-14.0562a, b, c (to administer the sacraments of the Lord’s Supper and baptism, and to moderate both Session and congregational meetings).

Schwengber was invited forward to read her Statement of Faith.

A BRIEF STATEMENT OF FAITH

Janet R. Schwengber

The author of the universe, the preserver of all life, the sustainer of the balance of life in the universe, and the author of Love is the God in whom I believe.

Creation is the result of God's desire to extend the sphere of love beyond God's-self.

To me Genesis 1 implies that there is no ontological distinction among created beings, between the sacred and the profane, the holy and the secular.

Sin is the breaking off of our relationship with the holy by acts against the laws and commands of the holy which manifests itself in our disrespect/destruction of that which was wholly created; and
"The wages of sin is death"

God is the source and sustainer of all life by God's creation.

The entire event of redemption is built on the presupposition of the holiness of creation.

It is in the sacrificial act of Christ that I become one again (justified) with the Creator.

God no longer sees me as I am, but sees me as righteous and holy; this is God's Grace given to me in Christ Jesus. Creation and Salvation come together in Christ Jesus.

It is in the person of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that we have become free to be in relationship with the holy, to become one with the creation and the creator; and, enable me to inherit life everlasting.

The painful suffering, the living experience of death, and the raising of the crucified flesh of Jesus is the covenant that is made with the destroyers (sinful humankind) of the universe and the love, spirit-filled presence of God.

We are made "right" with God and are given God's spirit to carry on the path that Jesus described for us.

The concept of the Trinity, a mystery;

yet, from the people of God we hear that God is one.

The One is infinitely undefined; it defies definition.

Three distinct persons in one divine essence;

I see the creation and accept God the Creator, the Son has provided the work of Redemption, the Spirit, proceeding from the Creator and the Son, continues the work of Sanctification.

God's Holy Spirit comes to me in a "still small voice" that beckons and calls me to follow the path of the redeemer.

The Spirit of God gives me inner confidence to continue on.

In this voice I hear the words, "Try again, my presence will carry you."

It is God the Creator that shelters me and gives me strength, it is God the Redeemer that frees me to seek, and it is God the Spirit that gives me confidence and affirmation.

God is one - one with me and all the redeemed.

In the Sacraments, instituted by God, God comes to me and I desire to have God enter my whole being.

In Baptism, with the presence of the water and the Word, I am washed clean of all disconnectedness and have entered into communion with the Triune God.

In Holy Communion, the Lord's Supper, I receive the forgiving grace and presence of the Triune God in my life through the Word and the visible means of Bread and Wine; Through which I declare the remembrance of Christ's redemptive act and I wait for the new kingdom to come.

God enters the community and becomes an organic part of who I am and who others are in Christ.

Jesus and his teachings are revealed to me by Holy Scripture; which is the book of God's word revealed to humankind through faithful followers of God's covenant.

In the Holy Scripture God speaks to me, and in my distractions, I hear the words and I wish to understand; and by God's grace, the veil of distraction is lowered.

In God's justification of me through the merits of Jesus Christ and through God's word to me I know I am a called and loved as an individual (named in Baptism) in God's Creation.

And by the gift of God's-self to me, God's grace, I know I am a Child of the Kingdom of God. I am sanctified in God's Grace.

I believe in the Community of Faith, God's Church on earth, who is called by God to be witnesses to all we believe.

I believe in God's Kingdom that is now and will be new in the future:

The New Jerusalem that is the glory of God in which all the Saints of yesterday, today, and the future will be united in the complete Presence of the Almighty Power.

In all this I believe; I ask the Power that is God to help me in my unbelief!

COM Co-Chair Montfort framed what areas the questioning was to cover: her Statement of Faith and also questions about the additional functions of administering sacraments (the Lord's Supper and baptism), moderating the Session and congregational meetings. Montfort asked the first question about her sense of call to the Stamford Church and what excites about going to serve in this new way. Schwengber was surprised by the call, but her theology seems a natural fit with the Stamford Church. To other questions Schwengber said she doesn't see her role as an interim since the church is already looking for a Minister of Word and Sacrament; that she has always been a professor; that sanctification is a process in which we are continuing to come closer to our God (quoting Martin Luther about the Holy Spirit's role); and that as a teacher of ecology for many years, she sees God's glory on a daily basis in creation itself. Rev. Clyde Baker (at-large) asked her to articulate more about how she found the theology of the Stamford church close to her own; Schwengber crediting having learned a lot from small churches as a Commissioned Lay Preacher. After Rev. Cynthia Walton-Leavitt (Oneonta, First United) commented on the use of inclusive language and the poetry of her Statement of Faith, there was a motion to arrest examination, which was seconded and passed.

Schwengber was escorted out by Commissioned Lay Pastor Deb Fleming (Cabin Hill) during discussion and vote. COM Co-Chair Montfort informed the assembly that per Book of Order guidelines, COM was assigning a mentor to Schwengber – Rev. Cynthia Walton-Leavitt. Vice-Moderator Doug Horne asked if someone from the Stamford Church wished to speak. Fred Doyle said

in regard to Schwengber and the church that “we’re all on the same page” and she “gives us the Word in plain direct language.” Although the Stamford Church is in an active search for a minister, they had been relying on lay preachers to fill the pulpit and wanted more stability by having the same person preach, administer communion and lead Session.

When the assembly had no further discussion, Moderator Chris Burger called for the vote.

Schwengber was unanimously approved to be commissioned as Lay Pastor for Stamford, and welcomed back in with applause. Moderator Burger led the commissioning from the PCUSA Book of Alternative Services with assistance from COM Co-Chair Montfort. The two elders present from Stamford, Bob Graves and Fred Doyle, were invited to come up front as well. After Schwengber answered the commissioning questions in the affirmative, the commissioning service was closed with prayer.

To complete the COM report, Montfort observed that in addition to saying hello to Dave Johnson, the presbytery was saying goodbye to Rob Howard, who had served as installed pastor of the Masonville Federated Church since 2001 and as Stated Supply for Deposit. He also highlighted the Spiritual Retreat with Marjorie Thompson in May, which had 17 participants from Susquehanna Valley, plus an elder and a minister from neighboring presbyteries.

From the information items on the COM written report:

ACTION TAKEN BY COM ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY:

1. Hello and goodbye (Transfer of Membership)

On behalf of the Presbytery, COM transferred the Rev. David H. Johnson from Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery into our membership effective April 19 to become Interim Pastor of West Presbyterian Church, Binghamton.

On behalf of the Presbytery, COM has transferred the Rev. Rob Howard, who has been installed Pastor of the Masonville Federated Church and Supply Pastor for the Deposit Church, to become Designated Pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Marion, Ohio, effective June 13.

2. Approval of Annual Terms of Call to ministers on behalf of Presbytery

- Approval of the Commissioned Lay Pastor contract between Janet Schwengber and the Stamford Church, pending positive Presbytery action to commission her, from 6/13/2010 to 6/13/2011:
 - Cash Salary \$ 6,500
 - Social Security offset \$ 497
 - Continuing Education and books \$ 200
 - Mileage and professional expenses \$ 1,000
 - TOTAL COST TO CHURCH \$ 8,197
 - Vacation Four weeks
 - Study Leave Two weeks

- Approval of the renewed Pastor and Stated Supply contract for 2010 between Rob Howard and Masonville/Deposit (starting January 1, 2010):
 - Cash Salary \$29,829
 - Manse/Utilities \$ 8,950
 - Board of Pensions \$12,215
 - Social Security offset \$ 2,967
 - Continuing Education \$ 1,950
 - Medical Reimbursement \$ 500

- Approval of the renewed Commissioned Lay Pastor full-time contract between Judi Gage and Bovina from 4/1/10 to 12/31/10:
 - Cash Salary \$21,544.50
 - Manse/Utilities Provided by church
 - Board of Pensions \$ 5,461.53
 - Social Security offset \$ 2,142.60
 - Continuing Education \$ 750
 - Mileage and Professional expenses \$ 937.50
 - Vacation Three weeks
 - Study Leave Two weeks
 - TOTAL COST TO CHURCH \$30,836.11

- Approval of the Interim Pastor contract between David Johnson and Binghamton, West from 4/19/10 to 4/19/11:
 - Annual Cash Salary \$24,500
 - Medical Deductible \$ 8,000
 - Housing \$25,000
 - Continuing Education and books \$ 1,000
 - Mileage and Professional expenses \$ 2,100
 - Social Security offset \$ 3,786.75
 - Board of Pensions dues \$18,112.50
 - Vacation Four weeks
 - Study Leave Two weeks
 - TOTAL COST TO CHURCH \$82,499.25

- Approval of the Interim Associate Pastor contract between Nancy Rehkugler (United Methodist retired clergy) and Cortland United from 1/11/10 – 7/1/10:
 - Annual Salary (Split between salary and 403b) \$21,277
 - Social Security Offset 7.65%
 - Auto reimbursement Up to \$1,800

3. Approval to labor outside the bounds of Presbytery/beyond the jurisdiction of the church

- Granted permission for Dale Francis to labor outside the bounds in Lake Erie Presbytery to assume the position of Interim Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, PA beginning

3/16/10:

o Annual Cash Salary	\$17,700
o Housing	\$23,400
o Manse	\$12,330
o Social Security reimbursement	\$ 4,087.40
o Board of Pensions dues	\$16,830.45
o Continuing Education and books	\$ 1,000
o Professional reimbursement (maximum)	\$ 1,490
o Dental	\$ 510
o Vacation	Four weeks
o Study Leave	Two weeks
o Mileage at IRS rate	
o Full Moving Cost	
o TOTAL COST TO CHURCH	\$77,377.85

- Granted Delbert Wemple (HR) permission to labor beyond the jurisdiction of the PC(USA) by providing regular pulpit supply for Chenango Forks UCC Church at \$85/week.

- 4. Appointed ministers of word and sacrament as Mentor/supervisors to Commissioned Lay Pastors:** Rev. Emrys Tyler for CLP Doris White; Rev. Jan Devine for CLP George Budine; Rev. Mark Montfort for CLP Shirley Davis.

INFORMATION

- 1. COM appointed an Administrative Review Committee at the request of the session of the John Hus Presbyterian Church.** The following have been appointed to serve: Elder Fraser Williams (Northminster), Rev. Viktoria Berlik (at-large), Rev. Jan Devine (Endicott, First), Rev. Clyde Baker (at-large) and Elder Theresa Wescott (Endicott, Union).
2. Added Inquirer Craig Kunkle to Pulpit Supply list.
3. Approved paying for half the cost of “Ministry Assessments” for Commissioned Lay Pastors (similar to those for ministerial candidates).
4. Assigned COM Liaisons: Elder Dean Veenhoff to Margaretville/New Kingston and Charlotte Valley churches, Rev. Viktoria Berlik to Windsor.
5. Received a draft document “Examining Ministers for Membership and Approving Pastoral Relationships” from Interim Executive Cheryl Ann Elfond based on the COM Advisory Handbook and questions from St. Augustine Presbytery. The purpose of this document is to provide a consistent process of examination within the presbytery.
6. Received a draft revision of COM Policy #18, “Criteria for Validated Ministries” and the corresponding Annual Report form from Stated Clerk Janet Adair Hansen. Sent draft revisions of COM Policies #28 & 29 regarding Commissioned Lay Pastors to the Committee on Lay Preaching for comments.

7. Our Presbytery sponsored a “Boundary Awareness” (Sexual & Ethical Misconduct) training event at the Union Presbyterian Church in Endicott on Tuesday April 27th on behalf of the Fab Five Presbytery Partnership Group (Susquehanna Valley, Cayuga-Syracuse, Utica, Northern New York, Albany). Those completing training from our presbytery were: Janet Abel, Clyde Baker, Parrish Bridges, George Budine, Janice Devine, Timothy Devine, Cheryl Ann Elford, Deborah Fleming, Judith Gage, John Gay, Douglas Hatch, David Johnson, Craig Kunkle, Lisa Ruth Mays, Adelbert More, Robert Peak, Patricia Raube, Lynn Shepard, Steven Swanson, Emrys Tyler, Doris White, Carol Wilson. The Whitney Point School District has also sent verification that Robert Heinle completed the sexual misconduct/boundary awareness training required annually on May 7, 2010.

Last fall at its Sept. 1, 2009 meeting, COM voted to require all ministers currently active to be in compliance with the Presbytery’s requirement for Boundary Awareness Training by June 30, 2010. The Presbytery Policy is to have Boundary Awareness training within 18 months of first coming into the Presbytery and renewed every 5 years after first training.

8. COM sponsored a Spiritual Retreat led by Marjorie Thompson, May 16-18, 2010, at the Fatima Retreat Center in Dalton PA which was attended by 17 pastors and other presbytery leaders from the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley and 1 pastor and 1 elder from other presbyteries.

Terms of Call for 2010 had already been approved as part of the Consent Agenda (following two pages).

2 pages of COM Terms of Call chart to be inserted here

For the **Committee on Nominations report**, **Chair Marilyn Myers** presented the name of Mary Ellen Whitmore (Bainbridge) for the Committee on Lay Preaching to fill the vacancy in the Class of 2010 (ending 12/31/2010). After calling for nominations from the floor and there being none, motion to elect Whitmore was approved by the body.

The Moderator then invited the **Rev. Dr. Barbara Schwartz, Chair of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry**, forward to speak, noting there was no committee report but a written report on the **Theological Education Fund**. Schwartz highlighted her report, noting TEF support in 2009 increased from 7 churches to 12: Andes, Cincinnatus, Conklin, Endicott First, Hamden, Ithaca, Marathon, Nichols, Nineveh, Northminster, Stamford, Walton. The Theological Education Fund has helped Inquirers and Candidates from Susquehanna Valley.

The **Committee on Lay Preaching** had a written report but had withdrawn docket time since Jean Fairburn (Conklin) would be re-commissioned at a later date. (Fairburn had already been returned to the lay Pulpit Supply list after completing requirements for re-commissioning.) A workshop on the “Preparation of Sermons” led by the Rev. Lisa Ruth Mays (Walton) had been held on Saturday May 1st, with 10 pastors helped to evaluate sermons. Another workshop on Saturday May 22nd led by Rev. Cynthia Walton-Leavitt (Oneonta, First United) on “Church Administration” was aimed for Lay Pastors but interested Lay Preachers could also attend. 2 units of credit were given for attending the Marjorie Thompson retreat; and the list of continuing education courses through 2011 was being drawn

up. Rev. John Gay (Cortland United) and Elder Janet Schwengber met with the CUSP committee on May 5, 2010 in Syracuse to discuss the status of the Lay Pastor program in the Susquehanna Presbytery and to find ways to work together with our sister Presbyteries.

There was no report from the **Committee on Representation**.

Since it was already 6:15 PM, the Moderator proposed adjusting the docket to hear the “Church Highlight” mission presentation from Endicott First before the Order of the Day (dinner at 6:30 PM). Jan Devine had prepared a PowerPoint slide presentation on a mission supported by First Presbyterian, Endicott, **“Grace and Peace Mission” to Orissa, India**. Tim Devine narrated, explaining that this became a non-profit US Corporation in 2007. Grace and Peace Mission to Orissa sponsors an orphanage housing 135 children, a leprosy ministry (housing, medicines), outreach to 16 small tribal churches in the Kandhamal district, Moorshead Memorial Christian Hospital. Representatives from First Presbyterian, Endicott visited Orissa, India in person in summer 2008 after waves of persecution against Christians by extremist Hindus, and again in February 2010. Devine said that to sponsor one of the children costs \$15/month, to sponsor one of the native pastors costs \$35/month; the presbytery evening worship offering will also benefit the Grace and Peace Mission to Orissa. For more information, the website is www.gpmoindia.org

Moderator Chris Burger offered a table grace before the gathering was dismissed downstairs to the lovely dinner prepared by members of the Guilford Center Presbyterian Church. Good News was shared near the end of dinner, including an announcement that Council Moderator Pat Raube would be featured speaker for a Synod Gathering of Presbyterian Women in August.

The business portion of the assembly resumed in the sanctuary at 7:18 PM, with Vice-Moderator Doug Horne presiding. Instructions were given to divide into 10 small groups to discuss the **“Word, Share, Prayer”** approach (from Stan Otts’ Acts 16:5) to Acts 2:42. Groups were to read, reflect, respond and request (pray). An opportunity to share responses to what it means to be “devoted” to the four practices (“the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers”) was given.

At 7:44 PM, **Cheryl Ann Elfond, Interim Executive Presbyter** for Transition & Transformation (IEPTT), began her report, which featured a PowerPoint slide show “Flipping the Presbytery” from Los Ranchos Presbytery, which has undergone something similar to the “Revision” efforts of Susquehanna Valley. Elfond’s written report underscored the presbytery theme of “Grow in Discipleship” and quoted St. Catherine of Siena, “Be who God meant you to be and you will set the world on fire.” The written IEPTT report also recorded key areas of her work for the past three months:

IEPTT REPORT: Some Key Areas worked on from March 6, 2010 – June 8, 2010

Pastors

- 18 pastoral visits with church professionals
- 8 hospital visits
- Attended open house in honor of Patty Wolff sponsored by East Guilford and Unadilla
- On-going resourcing of pastors as requested
- Facilitated lunch discussion group for designated, interim, and temporary supply pastors

- Coordinated lunch for women in ministry
- Served as coach for Acts 16.5 pastor cluster (3 meetings)
- Attended Boundary Awareness Training
- Assisted with planning and attended Spiritual Retreat led by Marjorie Thompson

Sessions and Congregations

- Preached for 3 congregations during pastor's medical leave
- Worked with Committee on Ministry (COM) liaisons and 2 sessions regarding medical leave for pastors and worked with a pastor and personnel committee chair on medical leave
- Provided leadership and/or resourcing for 4 sessions and 1 interim pastor search committee and provided guidance on several contracts for pastoral leadership
- Administered Natural Church Development Survey for Union Presbyterian Church in Endicott and serve as coach to pastor and team
- Resourced leadership working with possible merger of Binghamton First and West Presbyterian Churches
- Provided guidance for COM and trained Administrative Review Committee for John Hus (appointed by COM at the request of the John Hus Session)
- Attended 3rd Acts 16.5 Gathering
- Assisted with setting up and attended Stewardship training for congregations
- Critiqued sermons for lay preachers as organized by Committee on Lay Preaching

Presbytery Leadership

- Served as consultant and coach to Executive Team of Council and the Moderators of Presbytery/Council
- Facilitated 2 meetings of the Healthy Congregation Facilitators team
- Served as consultant and coach for the COM in various areas
- Provided leadership development for the COM in: Examination of Ministers and Lay Pastors for membership/compatibility with a particular position
- Provided leadership development for the COM in Annual Reviews/Evaluations Process
- Served as staff resource for Moderators of Presbytery and Council, co-chairs of COM, Nominating, Personnel sub-committee, Finance sub-committee, Transformation Ministry Team and others as requested
- Facilitated meetings of the Executive Team of Council and led study discussions
- Attended 17 different meetings of committees or groups of the Presbytery

Wider Church

- Participated in 2 meetings for shared ministry and staffing with partner Presbyteries (Cayuga-Syracuse, Susquehanna Valley, Utica Presbyteries, Northern New York) referred to as CUSP
- Participated in the Regional Board of Pensions (BOP) Consultation
- Participated in the General Assembly Office of Vocation leadership event
- Participated in the Fab Five Presbytery Partnership Group (PPG) of the Synod of the Northeast with Presbytery Synod Commissioners
- Attended the Council Meeting of the Presbytery Northern New York to interpret the work of CUSP
- Provided Orientation for Presbytery General Assembly Commissioners

- Consulted with other Denominational Executives on behalf of Susquehanna Valley and its congregations

Staff

- Continued to provide training and coaching for Office Administrator/Bookkeeper and worked on numerous administrative details with Office Administrator/Bookkeeper
- Worked with Stated Clerk on various issues
- Facilitated staff meetings and development

The **Council Report** began at 7:55 PM with **Moderator Chris Burger** referring to the written report and highlighting that Peter Steinke would give a workshop at the Saturday Nov. 20th presbytery assembly meeting at First Presbyterian, Binghamton, and presbytery business would be limited to one hour in length.

Tim Devine (Endicott, First), chair of the **Personnel sub-committee**, related that Council had offered a renewed contract to the Interim Executive Presbyter Cheryl Ann Elfond for 2011, but with terms and financial compensation reduced to $\frac{3}{4}$ time. One half-time will emphasize her work to help the presbytery “transitional and transformational” and one-quarter time will focus on new responsibilities. Some of the current full-time responsibilities, such as preaching at local churches, will drop away. The written Council report gave more detail:

Approved a revised position description starting January 1, 2011 for a $\frac{3}{4}$ -time Interim Executive Presbyter (attached) and approved personnel sub-committee recommendation of offering an extension and revision of the contract with current Interim Executive Presbyter Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond to continue in this revised position through December 31, 2011. The Council discussed the rationale for both decreasing the hours (and cost of the position by approximately \$24,000) and maintaining the position and offering an extension to the Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond.

- a. The work of the interim time of transition and transformation is not complete; there is still work to do;
- b. It is not complete in part because the Presbytery is engaged in conversations with 3 other Presbyteries (Cayuga-Syracuse, Utica, and Northern New York regarding shared staffing and ministry based on the work that Susquehanna Valley had previously done with its staffing pattern task force involving the whole Presbytery) and the timing for the other Presbyteries is such that it will take at least 1-2 years (or more) to deal with possible shared executive leadership among the Presbyteries;
- c. Continuation of an interim executive provides on-going part-time professional interim stability and further development of the presbytery during the transition while shared staffing and ministry continues to be pursued by the four Presbyteries;
- d. Maintaining the current relationship allows the Presbytery to maintain continuity and momentum;
- e. The part-time interim position was also constructed with a view to providing essential staff resources in the future at 50% time should efforts for shared ministry and staffing among the other Presbyteries not bear fruit, thus putting Susquehanna Valley in a good position either way.

The Council also reviewed the total cost for staff resources from 2000-2010 (2003-2010 shown here due to size of chart).

year	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Staff budgeted costs	177,513	164,598	170,636	144,572	191,660	194,334	173,921	160,096
Staff actual costs	181,350	138,186	176,546	154,259	189,439	192,845	155,019	
difference	(3,837)	26,412	(5,910)	(9,687)	2,221	1,489	18,902	

Allen Presby (Delhi, First), Council representative to the **CUSP discussions** (Cayuga-Syracuse, Utica and Susquehanna Valley Presbyteries on shared staffing and leadership) reminded the assembly that 2 ½ years earlier the presbytery had engaged in a comprehensive survey, and moved ahead with real openness to sharing mission and business with neighboring Fab Five Presbyteries – all of which are facing leadership loss, membership loss and suffering from shrinking pool of resources. The proposal for shared bookkeeper between Cayuga-Syracuse, Utica and Susquehanna Valley has been approved by all three presbyteries, a consultant has been hired (with grant funding) to help get it in place, and the shared bookkeeper will begin working Jan. 2011.

Discussion centered on the willingness of IEP Elfond to accept a reduced position, the delayed prospects for future sharing of executive leadership between presbyteries, and the need to live into a new model of doing things, instead of business as usual. Tim Devine asked Vice-Moderator Doug Horne to lead the assembly in prayer at this time of transition. The revised position description for Interim Executive Presbyter (effective one year beginning Jan. 1, 2011):

Revised Position Description for Interim Executive Presbyter (3/4 time at 36 hours per week)

- a. Provide Presbytery leadership by**
 - Providing leadership development for Presbytery
 - Assisting Presbytery leadership
 - in vision casting and strategy including providing training and leadership development for congregations through seminars, workshops, and Presbytery Assemblies
 - in change management and ‘balcony’ work (big picture view - keeping things in perspective)
 - in setting and maintaining appropriate boundaries, modeling healthy behavior patterns and promoting communications and processes that foster good flow of information.
 - Serving as head of staff
 - Serving as resource, consultant and coach
 - for the moderators of Presbytery and Council
 - for other leaders of the Presbytery (committee and team chairs)
 - Serving as facilitator for executive team of council
 - Communications!

- Attending meetings as needed (Council, Executive Team, COM, and Presbytery Assembly)
- b. Provide support for COM and ‘Healthy Congregations’ by**
- Serving as a consultant and coach for COM chair(s) and members in matters of strategy for promoting healthy pastor-congregation relationships and addressing issues and concerns. This would also apply to ‘shared ministry’ and mission among congregations.
 - Providing training and leadership development for members of COM
 - Providing training in conflict management and ‘healthy congregation’ skills for staff members as well as COM
 - Serving as team leader for Healthy Congregations Facilitators and providing on-going training and development for the facilitators.
 - Providing reference checks from other executives; relate to ecumenical executives
- c. Provide support for pastors and provide pastoral care by**
- Arranging for regular gatherings of pastors
 - Arranging for time-limited study groups in various areas of Presbytery
 - Developing and working with the Clergy Care Team
 - to provide pastoral care for pastors
 - to provide crisis care for pastors
 - to assist pastors in securing emergency assistance grants or shared grants (upon approval of COM co-chairs) in cases of need
- d. Congregational Resourcing**
- Providing direct resourcing to congregations in a variety of ways – staffing rationale, annual reviews, strategic planning, natural church development, mediation, conflict management, healthy congregations, retreats, etc.
 - Arranging for gatherings of congregations in clusters for mutual support, fellowship, and teaching

Other action taken by Council included in the written report:

Approved Overture to General Assembly regarding the union of Christ Presbyterian Church with United Community Church of Cortland (action taken by Presbytery on Dec. 5, 2009 to approve, but needed language of overture to send to General Assembly)

**On Establishing the Christ Community Church in Cortland, New York as a Union Church—
From the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley.**

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley overtures the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the PC(USA) to approve the action taken by the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley to approve the union of Christ Presbyterian Church of Cortland, New York with the United Community Church of Cortland, New York (a previous union in 1981 between the Congregational and Baptist Churches in Cortland, New York and affiliated with the Susquehanna Association of the

United Church of Christ in New York State and the Iroquois Association of the American Baptist Churches USA) to establish a new union church, “Christ Community Church of Cortland.” The Christ Community Church will be responsible and accountable to all three denominations (PCUSA, UCC and ABC).

Rationale

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley, the Susquehanna Association of the United Church of Christ in New York State and the Iroquois Association of the American Baptist Churches USA seek to manifest more visibly the unity of the church of Jesus Christ and strengthen the witness of our Lord and Savior in the Cortland, New York area by this action (Book of Order, G-15.0101).

All of the needed legal and ecclesiastical steps have been taken to assure a full and joyful union according to the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A) and the United Church of Christ and American Baptist Churches USA denominations.

The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley approved the plan for union constitution between Christ Presbyterian Church and the United Community Church of Cortland at its December 5, 2009, meeting.

The Regional Offices of the Susquehanna Association of the United Church of Christ in New York State represented by Rev. Richard Cowles and the Iroquois Association of the American Baptist Churches USA represented by the Rev. Tom Hast, as well as the Interim Executive Presbyter Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond and representatives from the Presbytery’s Committee on Ministry had met with and advised the two congregations for a two-year period, 2008-2009, in praying about and planning for this union.

As a “union” with an already “union” church, the proportion of church members for statistical purposes will be counted as one-half Presbyterian Church (USA), one-quarter United Church of Christ and one-quarter American Baptist Churches USA.

At its May 12, 2010 meeting Council had also acted:

- Appointed Stated Clerk Janet Adair Hansen to serve as Overture Advocate on Peacemaking & Seminaries at General Assembly
- Adopted a plan for “Equipping laity and pastors: Helping congregations to discover, define, and do mission” proposed by the Executive Team of Council according to the ReVision plan. The Council will plan regional gatherings in advance of the “equipping” events. The gatherings may not be monthly and there will be an attempt to integrate the material into already existing groups such as the churches participating in the Acts 16.5 Initiative so that they will not be pulled in too many directions. Some of the “equipping” events will take place during a Presbytery Assembly as is the case with the first event scheduled November 20, 2010 with Peter Steinke, the author of *Healthy Congregations, Being Calm No Matter What, A Door Set Open* and numerous other books.
 - **November 2010 “Focus on Vision and Mission in the local congregation: Navigating choppy waters in changing times”**
Timing: A 5-hour workshop on Saturday as part of the Assembly meeting (10-12 and 1-4). Worship, installation of moderators, and business on consent agenda for 1 hour. Assembly time frame 9 am – 4 pm.
- Changed the loan to the Conklin Church from 2 years to 5 years at the session’s request.

- Renamed savings accounts at recommendation of Finance sub-committee
 - 100250 to “Transformation Savings” (from “Transformation SM CH 97 Savings”) and continue to be at the discretion of the Transformation Ministry Team.
 - 100251 “Development Savings” (from “Transformation General Savings”).
- Approved Finance sub-committee plans to consolidate investment accounts 100252, 100253, 100254, 100255 into one account named “Development Investments” which will be used at the discretion of the Council for development projects including the new equipping laity and pastors initiative.
- Approved the Fab Five PPG grant proposal “pass-through” from Ithaca, First (and Skaneateles, First) regarding the proposed project for a Sudanese magazine journal for K-12 and declined to act upon request of First Ithaca for a creative ministry grant related to the above project because it appears that they are seeking funds from an inappropriate funding source and decided to encourage the applicant to seek the availability of other appropriate funds.
- Approved the cost of presbytery assembly meals at \$7.00 because it is confusing when the meal prices keep changing from assembly to assembly.
- Decided to use a “Word-Share-Prayer” process in small groups for the June 8, 2010 assembly in place of a workshop because the theme is on “Discipleship.”
- Referred the designation of the June 8, 2010 worship offering to the Executive Team

The proposed presbytery Confidentiality Policy recommended by Council, which both the Council and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry had worked on for over a year, had already been adopted by the assembly as part of the Consent Agenda.

Presbytery Confidentiality Policy

Adopted June 8, 2010

Good practices expected of all persons engaged in the work of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley (hereafter, “PSV”) shall include the following:

Personal information about PSV Inquirers, Candidates, Ministers, Commissioned Lay Pastors, Lay Preachers, staff members, church staff members and potential employees shall be treated as confidential. Such information will be shared only as it is directly relevant to church work on a “need to know basis” (e.g., the Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Council, Personnel sub-committees, Permanent Judicial Commission, Investigating Committee or Administrative Commission).

All persons engaged in the work of the PSV shall handle and store presbytery documents (e.g. minutes, papers and e-mails) containing confidential or sensitive personal information in such a way that they may be reasonably sure that unauthorized persons will not access them.

- Fitting precautions should be taken when an e-mail account that handles PSV business may be accessed by other family members or when electronic files are stored on a computer accessed by more than one individual. Caution should be exercised in forwarding e-mails or using

"Reply All" and copying functions to avoid accidental copying or forwarding to persons not engaged in the relevant PSV business.

- Presbytery documents shall be handled and stored with the same care, respecting privacy and preserving confidentiality.

The PSV Confidentiality Policies establish minimum standards. Individual committees may need to establish guidelines specific to their work.

Orientation for PSV work shall include full instruction on PSV Confidentiality Policy.

The Confidentiality Policy shall be published on PSV website and included in Presbytery Leadership Packet.

The **Stated Clerk report**, which had been removed from the Consent Agenda, was introduced before the Ministry Teams began reporting. The only action item was to dismiss Administrative Commissions with thanks. Vice-Moderator Doug Horne called for motion to be seconded, and it passed on voice vote.

The following administrative commissions completed their work and should be dismissed with thanks:

- To ordain and install the Rev. Douglas W. Hatch as part-time Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Marathon, NY, on November 1, 2009.
- To install the Rev. Dr. Steven Swanson as Pastor at the First Presbyterian Church of Andes, NY on November 15, 2009.
- To install the Rev. Linda Hendrian as Pastor of the Central Delaware Trinity Covenant Church on December 6, 2009 (at Hamden Presbyterian Church).

The Stated Clerk's written report included as information for the assembly:

Presbytery Record Review by Synod of the North East

The approved minutes of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley for March 28, June 16 and September 15, 2009 were presented at the Synod Stated Clerks meeting April 14-15, 2010 at Stony Point Center for review. It was recommended that the minutes be approved with the following exceptions:

- No list of churches visited for triennial reviews;
- No indication of AA/EEO program of denomination followed in calling ministers.

The commendations to the minutes were:

- The "Ethiopian Partnership" to learn more about our African friends is a great mission project to educate people.
- The "Workshop on Hunger" used a game similar to Jeopardy to deal with hunger facts. This is a good way to spread the word and educate.

Note: Official presbytery minutes are printed up on special acid-free paper and kept in an official hard binder similar to the procedure for Session minutes. Attachments to the minutes of the meeting are included as part of the official presbytery record and printed on numbered pages, including Financial

Statements, minutes of Administrative Commissions, property descriptions when sale has been authorized, and official judicial decisions.

Minutes of Administrative Commissions

Book of Order G-9.0502 Commission

A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a governing body. The appointing body shall state specifically the scope of power given to a commission. ***A commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to its governing body to be incorporated in its minutes and to be regarded as the actions of the governing body itself.*** (bold, italics added)

The minutes of all presbytery administrative commissions, not just those to ordain or install ministers, are turned over to the Stated Clerk and added to the presbytery minutes. For example, the Administrative Commissions to close the South Hills Presbyterian Church in Vestal and to close the Cobblestone Hill Presbyterian Church near Whitney Point are part of the official presbytery minutes. The Garrattsville Administrative Commission, appointed at the June 16, 2009 presbytery assembly, has been submitting approved minutes quarterly for inclusion with presbytery minutes. The Schwartz Administrative Commission, appointed at the December 5, 2009 presbytery assembly, has elected to wait until the completion of their work (no later than December 5, 2010) to submit their minutes to the Stated Clerk for inclusion in presbytery minutes. [Note: The official administrative commission minutes in regard to the Rev. Dr. Barbara J. Schwartz are distinct from the fuller records which will be turned over to the COM Co-Chairs upon the dismissal of the Administrative Commission.]

Presbytery Minutes

Proposed Minutes for March 6, 2010 Presbytery Assembly were posted on the presbytery website home page for download by April 30th.

Proposed Minutes for December 5, 2009 Presbytery Assembly were posted on the presbytery website homepage for download by May 12th. They had been originally presented at the March 6, 2010 meeting but were “postponed definitely” till June 8th Assembly meeting. Red font shows the proposed amendment and Stated Clerk response in the body of the proposed minutes (red additions will not be part of final copy).

The Rev. Dr. Barbara Schwartz had proposed amendment to replace bulleted material on page 11 of the proposed minutes with: *“The two decisions of the Synod of the Northeast’s Permanent Judicial Commission and the Settlement Agreement are attached to the minutes of the Sept. 5th, 2009 Presbytery meeting”* citing “legal concerns” as her rationale.

The Stated Clerk notes that the section of the proposed December 5, 2009 minutes referred to contains language lifted directly from the motion charging the Administrative Commission to work with the Rev. Dr. Schwartz as adopted by the Assembly. **Therefore, the motion to amend and substitute new language is out of order because minutes are to reflect actions of the body, not change them.**

Ecclesiastical legal consultation had previously been sought in the appointment of and charge to the Administrative Commission made by the Presbytery on December 5, 2009. The judicial process documents play a different role and could not by themselves constitute a charge to an Administrative Commission, although they are referred to in the motion as approved, and the responsibilities given to the Administrative Commission are drawn from the Settlement Agreement. The Presbytery may

choose to reconsider its previous action or to change the responsibilities given the Administrative Commission, but minutes are to properly and accurately record actions taken. The proposed December 5, 2009 minutes quote exactly the enumerated responsibilities given to the Schwartz Administrative Commission as approved by Presbytery.

The **Ethiopian Partnership Ministry Team** (EPMT) used a PowerPoint presentation with narration by Co-Chair **John Schwartz**, to inform the presbytery on the status of our partnership with Western Wollega Bethel Synod (of the Evangelical Ethiopian Church of Mekane Yesus). The Synod has grown from 10 presbyteries when we began our partnership in 1996 to 17 presbyteries, with over 235,000 members in over 450 congregations, served by about 100 pastors and 90 evangelists. The WWBS 5 Year Plan (2010-2014) has “Holistic Ministry” as the guiding principle – “serving the whole person” both their physical and spiritual needs.

To meet spiritual needs, WWBS operates the Gidada Bible School, Children & Youth ministries, a Women’s Ministry, and a Multipurpose Training Center. To meet educational needs, the Synod operates Birhane Yesus Elementary School and Bethel Evangelical Secondary School in Dembi Dollo, and supports the Ethiopian Rural Education Project (EREP) – which our presbytery initiated, and which serves children coming from Christian, Muslim and animist families without discrimination. To meet physical needs, the Synod outreach includes orphanages, social health services, HIV/AIDS prevention and control programs, rural health clinics, relief work, water source development and integrated rural development, and other micro-projects. This is only possible with collaboration with overseas partners such as the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley, donor agencies, missions, and local government support.



The last slide showed a chart demonstrating the increasing financial need through 2014 that WWBS will have to meet, while funding from our presbytery and other donors was projected to decrease. Besides budgeted mission funds from our presbytery operating budget, many churches designate donations to WWBS or EREP. In the written report from EPMT, one of the July General Assembly themes was quoted, “Attention will move beyond ourselves to a world in great need, committing ourselves to gospel work: making disciples, feeding the hungry, welcoming the outcast, encouraging the fainthearted, working for peace – all in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.” Schwartz, one of five people from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery who took part in our most recent visitor exchange to WWBS in February 2008, emphasized the critical value of the Ethiopian Partnership, not only for what mission we are able to help support, but what impact it makes on us.

Brad McFall (SCE) gave both the **Justice in Mission (JIM) report** and his **Stewardship of Creation Enabler** report. McFall highlighted upcoming peace and justice conferences this summer, stating that scholarship help is available:

- “Peacemaking – the Believers Calling” seminar at Ghost Ranch, Aug. 25-28
- “Farm the Land, Grow the Spirit” at Stony Point, July 6-31 for young adults (18-28)
- “Energy Stewardship for Congregations” at Stony Point, Oct. 29-30
- several conferences around the Israel/Palestine conflict
- Peacemaking accompaniment program in Columbia

McFall noted that drilling in Marcellus Shale had repeatedly been in the news, and that there are pastoral concerns for churches – as some members sign gas leases and others refuse to sign. To date JIM knew of five churches in the presbytery who had sponsored educational forums around fracking and gas leases: Marathon, Cortlandville, Ithaca, Binghamton, First and Binghamton, West. In the Fab Five Presbytery Partnership Group, a proposal for training for “Cool Congregations” (energy efficiency for both churches and individual member homes) on Saturday Sept. 25th will be provided by NY Interfaith Power & Light. Nationally, a pilot program on “Earth Care Congregations” is being promoted by the Environmental Justice office in Louisville. Locally, JIM helped promote the visit of Gabriel Bol Deng from Sudan to First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca. As Stewardship of Creation Enabler (SCE), McFall had completed a draft curriculum on turtles and environmental justice concerns, and hopes to try again to take a Youth Group to South Carolina next spring.

Diarmuid O'Hara (Bainbridge) gave the report for the **Christian Nurture** ministry team. More members are needed, as they are down to just three persons. The Christian Nurture team has made arrangements to process "campership" requests to attend summer church camps. This is also the year for the Youth Triennium at Purdue University starting July 20th – just over 20 youth will be attending from our presbytery. The theme is "For Such a Time as This" (Book of Esther), reminding youth to be aware of God's call to act as agents of hope, healing, and holy transformation. As a school night, the youth weren't present, but O'Hara led a commissioning prayer for those attending Youth Triennium.

There being no report, written or oral, from the Transformation ministry team, the agenda moved on to the **commissioning of General Assembly delegates** for the 219th GA in Minneapolis July 3-10, 2010. Vice-Moderator Doug Horne invited delegates and alternates forward: Rev. Janet Abel (alternate Rev. Tim Devine), Elder Chris Burger (alternate Elder JoAnn Gray) – Young Adult Advisory Delegate Benjamin Peak and alternate Ryken Ruuspakka were not able to be present. Horne asked the commissioning questions, then led prayer for the commissioners, our presbytery and the General Assembly.

Presbytery Moderator Chris Burger resumed moderating the remainder of the assembly meeting.

Closing **Taize style worship** began at 8:51 PM, led by Cynthia Huling Hummel (Waverly) with simple guitar accompaniment. Chris Burger and Cheryl Ann Elfond each read a translation of Matt. 28:18-20. Huling Hummel invited prayer concerns to be shared, followed by the sacrament of the Lord's Supper, served by intinction as those present came forward to the communion table. Past Council Moderator Deb Fleming gave the closing prayer and benediction.

Moderator Burger reminded the assembly of the item that had been added at the end of the agenda, the motion made by the Rev. Barbara Schwartz "That the Presbytery, at its June 8, 2010 assembly, reaffirm the primacy and authority of the September 2009 Settlement Agreement between the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley and the Reverend Dr. Barbara J. Schwartz." The motion passed with abstentions from Dale Barber (Waverly), Leslie Anne King (Owego) and Rev. Janet Adair Hansen (Cortlandville).

Motion to adjourn was made at 9:22 PM, and the Rev. Doug Horne offered the closing prayer. The next presbytery meeting is scheduled for Tuesday evening September 14th at Christ Community Church in Cortlandville.

Recording Clerk, Rev. Lynn Shepard

Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Janet Adair Hansen

"The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley lives to serve and encourage congregations as we together seek to be faithful to our calling in Jesus Christ."

Moderator, Elder Chris Burger

Vice-Moderator, Rev. Douglas Horne

Council Chair, Elder Deborah Fleming

Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Janet Adair Hansen

Interim Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Cheryl Ann Elfond

Treasurer, Elder Jack Bell

8 pages of 4-30-10 Financial Reports to be appended here (in pdf format, not easily inserted into Proposed Minutes)

MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR
THE GARRATTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Thursday, February 4, 2010 -- 6:00 pm -- Presbytery Mission Center, Bainbridge, NY

Rev. Carol Wilson led us in devotions and opened our meeting with prayer.

PRESENT: Rev. Doug Horne, Elder Enid Carter, Rev. Carol Wilson, Elder Deb Fleming, Rev. Susan Goodin

GUESTS: Dave, Kathy & Sarah Galley, Jill Whitbeck, Dave Turnbull

EXCUSED: Elder Chris Burger, Joan Loeffler, Lois Greisig, Steve Atkinson

M/S/C to give all our guests privilege of the floor at all meetings.

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the 1/7/10 meeting with changes.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

SAVINGS: \$9,243.85 CHECKING: \$1,186.12

SUNDAY SCHOOL SAVINGS: \$256.47

NEW COVENANT FUNDS -- \$32,632.87

NYSEG: \$24.26

2 FIRE EXTINGUISHERS PURCHASED: \$107.94

CHRISTMAS EVE OFFERING: \$122.63 paid each to Butternut Valley Food Pantry & Edmeston-Burlington Food Pantry

M/S/C to receive the financial report.

OLD BUSINESS:

M/S/C to have a weekly Lenten series (with communion) on Sunday evenings through Lent beginning on Feb 21.

M/S/C to have communion during Easter Sunday service on April 4.

M/S/C to use money allocated for the Christmas Eve service, plus an additional \$100, will be used during Lent/Easter at the discretion of the group.

M/S/C to have an Easter vigil service on the evening before Easter (time to be decided); and invite the Methodists to join them for an Easter sunrise service.

NEW BUSINESS:

M/S/C to schedule Garrattsville Presbyterian Church's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 23 at 6:00 pm at the church.

M/S/C to receive the One Great Hour of Sharing offering during Lent.

M/S/C to adjourn at 7:30 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 8, 6:00 at the PMC at 6:00 p.m. Enid will do devotions.

The meeting was closed with prayer with Enid Carter.

MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR
THE GARRATTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Thursday, March 11, 2010 -- 6:00 pm -- Presbytery Mission Center, Bainbridge, NY

Elder Enid Carter led us in devotions and opened our meeting with prayer.

PRESENT: Rev. Doug Horne, Elder Enid Carter, Rev. Carol Wilson, Elder Deb Fleming, Rev. Susan Goodin

GUESTS: Joan Loeffler, Lois Greisig, Dave Galley, Jill Whitbeck

ABSENT: Elder Chris Burger, Steve Atkinson

M/S/C to give our guests privilege of the floor at all meetings.

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the 2/4/10 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

SAVINGS: \$9,243.85 CHECKING: \$1,164.87

SUNDAY SCHOOL SAVINGS: \$256.56

NEW COVENANT FUNDS -- \$32,632.87

NYSEG: \$21.25

FIRE INSURANCE: \$392.24 due by April 27

M/S/C for Joan to pay NYSEG and the multi-peril insurance to the Otsego County Patrons Co-operative Fire Relief Assoc. in the amount of \$392.24 and to receive the treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS:

The weekly Lenten study has been taking place with 5/6 people in attendance. The Methodist congregation has invited Garrattsville to attend their Easter sunrise service at the site where the Methodist Church burned down.

Plans are being made for an Easter vigil service at 7:00 pm. Enid will preach on Palm Sunday (3/28/10).

No correspondence has been received.

M/S/C to have a potluck dinner at the church at 4:30 pm prior to the Annual Meeting on May 23. We will send a letter to members inviting them to come. Personal contact will also be made in addition to the letter.

A letter will be sent to the congregation (including a questionnaire) by April 1 with a return date of April 15. Return to the Presbytery Center with attention to the Clerk of Session.

Questions: Where are you willing to give your time and talent? Volunteers are needed for a newsletter, Elder, cleaning and maintaining the church, Worship Committee, Christian Ed.,

outreach. Are you willing to support the church financially? (Here is what it costs to keep the church open on a weekly basis-- \$100 for preacher plus mileage (\$50), \$50 for a musician, (although a recorded music could be used), utilities \$30, bulletins \$5. (\$235 total to keep the church open on a weekly basis.) In addition, the church pays per capita every year at the cost of \$32.00 per active member.) Would you be willing to pay your own per capita? Moderator of Session \$50 quarterly. Worship means more than just showing up on a Sunday morning. There are many tasks involved in "being the church" -- turning lights on and off, turning the heat on and off, who will take up collection, who makes that decision, making sure the bulletins are run, changing the message on the sign.

It is important that you know that your presence in worship is important and that you have been missed. Once a year the Session's task is to review it's membership list and determine who is active and who is not. Please fill out the enclosed questionnaire and return it in the self-addressed stamped envelope. This will help us determine the viability of the Garrattsville Presbyterian Church.

M/S/C to have Garrattsville host a Youth Choir from Mission of the Eastward on Thursday, April 22 at 1:00 pm.
(They will also give a concert at Gilbertsville at 7:00 pm.)

Moderator Doug Horne invited our guests to leave so that the AC could discuss the challenges that are before us and how we will proceed over the next few months.

Enid handed out a list of inactive members.

Motion was made to remove all inactive members and all members from the "non-resident" list from the rolls.

M/S/C amend the original motion to hold the last page in abeyance until our next meeting.

M/S/C to remove everyone on the inactive member list submitted by Enid on the first two pages (207-333) -- see attached.

Enid handed out a list of active members.

M/S/C to adjourn at 8:15 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, April 8, PMC at 6:00 p.m.
Rev. Doug Horne will do devotions.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Doug Horne.

MINUTES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR
THE GARRATTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Thursday, April 9, 2010 -- 6:00 pm -- Presbytery Mission Center, Bainbridge, NY

Rev. Doug Horne led us in devotions and opened our meeting with prayer.

PRESENT: Rev. Doug Horne, Elder Enid Carter, Elder Deb Fleming, Rev. Susan Goodin

GUESTS: Joan Loeffler, Lois Greisig, Dave Galley

ABSENT: Elder Chris Burger

EXCUSED: Steve Atkinson, Rev. Carol Wilson

M/S/C to approve the minutes of the 3/11/10 meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT:

SAVINGS: \$9,247.27 CHECKING: \$907.64 SUNDAY SCHOOL SAVINGS: \$256.56

NEW COVENANT FUNDS: \$32,632.87 NYSEG: \$20.49

PULPIT SUPPLY: \$128 (including mileage)

PALM SUNDAY OFFERING AND DONATION AND DIVIDENDS: \$283.50

M/S/C for Joan to pay bills and to receive the treasurer's report.

OLD BUSINESS

Folks are pondering another Bible study. 12 people attended the Palm Sunday service at 9:00 am. 12 people attended the Easter vigil at 7:00 pm. (Sue suggested that the service be held at 8:00 pm next year, if they choose to have another.) Feedback has been positive.

Doug will try to contact Miriam Hathaway and ask her if she is willing to preach at Garrattsville for a while. We discussed the possibility of changing worship to 11:00 am. Doug will preach at Garrattsville on 4/18 at 11:00 am. He will contact Jill Woodbeck to ask for her help in letting folks know about the service. The possibility of searching for a seminary student intern to fill the pulpit for the summer was discussed. Sue mentioned that whoever the clergy leadership is to be, that they be apprised that in order to develop healing among the members, they might want to consider talking one-on-one with folks in order to begin to build trust.

M/S/C to for a worship committee of 3 people to explore worship options. It is expected that they will not do ALL the work, but will get others involved and also keep the AC abreast of their work.

NEW BUSINESS

SURVEYS: 6 have been returned. One person will be moving. A family of 3 will NOT be returning. 2 folks are willing to contribute time and money. Enid will compile the surveys as they come in so they can be presented at Garrattsville's annual meeting on May 23 and to the Presbytery to support whatever decision the AC will make about the future of the church.

M/S/C to adjourn at 8:05 pm.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday, May 6 at Garrattsville at 6:00 p.m. (May 11th is also an option.) Rev. Sue Goodin will do devotions.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Rev. Doug Horne.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR
THE GARRATTSVILLE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
Report to the June 8, 2010 Presbytery Assembly at Guilford Center**

Action Item: To dismiss with thanks the Administrative Commission for the Garrattsville Presbyterian Church effective the date of installation of a new Session (after the G-14.0240 required study and preparation and examination).

Rationale: The Garrattsville Church anticipates electing 3 new elders on Sunday June 6th. After the Garrattsville Administrative Commission helps the new elders and new clerk of session with study and preparation and then examines them for office, the Administrative Commission needs to be dismissed effective the day the new elders are installed into office.

At the June 16, 2009 Presbytery Assembly at Northminister Presbyterian Church in Endwell, Presbytery appointed an Administrative Commission (AC) for Garrattsville Presbyterian Church (as requested by that Session before their mass resignation and recommended by Committee on Ministry) to assume the role of the Session and with authority and power to:

- Assume the role of the Session with all powers of the Session.
- Work to discover the nature of the conflict among its members.
- Review all finances of the church.
- Work with the congregation to determine the future, if any, of the church.
- Explore the possibility of a shared relationship with the United Methodist Church in Garrattsville.

Members appointed to serve were Rev. Doug Horne, Elder Deborah Fleming, Elder Chris Burger, Elder Enid Carter, Elder Steve Atkinson, Rev. Sue Goodin, Rev. Carol Wilson.

The Garrattsville AC received its orientation on July 8, 2009 from the Interim Executive Presbyter Cheryl Ann Elfond and Stated Clerk Janet Adair Hansen. Doug Horne was elected Moderator and Deb Fleming was elected Clerk.

The Garrattsville AC met July 29, August 27, September 13, September 24, October 22, November 22, December 3, 2009 and January 7, February 4, March 11, April 9, May 6 and May 23, 2010.

The Session Minutes and Records books were collected and reviewed. Membership rolls were cleaned of inactive and non-resident members. The Financial records were collected and reviewed, noting banking institutions, accounts, looking at financial statements. Joan Loeffler continued to serve as Treasurer and helped locate safety deposit box and financial records. 2009 Per Capita was paid to the presbytery. The church building was assessed for structural concerns, needed repairs noted, and estimate for roof repair received (about \$12,000).

Arrangements were made for worship, originally sharing a Methodist Lay Preacher at the Presbyterian Church with remaining members of a Methodist Church in the summer of 2009, but in the fall the Methodist District Superintendent directed Methodists to join with another Methodist church in worship. The AC arranged pulpit supply for September and then encouraged members to worship with the Gilbertsville Presbyterian Church in October, and that

or the Laurens Church in November. A decision was made not to offer worship in the building during the winter. Sunday worship was resumed Palm Sunday March 28, with AC members Rev. Doug Horne and Commissioned Lay Preacher Enid Carter helping provide worship continuity.

Oneonta area ministers Cynthia Walton-Leavitt and Mark Montfort both offered to cover emergency pastoral visits for church members.

A Christmas Eve service had nearly 60 in attendance and an offering of \$245.25 which benefited a local food bank. A weekly Lenten series (with communion) was offered on Sunday evenings through Lent beginning on Feb 21 with 5-6 in attendance, provided by Rev. Sue Goodin. Palm Sunday brought out 12 to worship. An Easter vigil service was held on the evening before Easter (attendance 12) with the Methodists invited; the Methodists invited Presbyterians to join them for an Easter sunrise service where their church had burned down. A Youth Choir from Mission of the Eastward sang on Thursday afternoon, April 22, with 27 in attendance.

The AC attempted to engage former elders in conversation late summer of 2009. A meeting with members of the congregation was held September 13 seeking input, for which 10 members showed up. Church members who came to AC meetings were given voice.

A spring survey was sent out on April 1, 2010 to 39 church members and friends; 15 were returned. Questions included: Where are you willing to give your time and talent? Volunteers are needed for a newsletter, Elder, cleaning and maintaining the church, Worship Committee, Christian Ed., outreach. Are you willing to support the church financially? (\$235 total to keep the church open on a weekly basis.) Would you be willing to pay your own per capita? (cost \$32 per person)

TREASURER'S REPORT as of May 6, 2010 showed:

SAVINGS: \$9,247.27 CHECKING: \$809.64
 SUNDAY SCHOOL SAVINGS: \$256.56
 NEW COVENANT FUNDS: \$33,527.27

Garrattsville Presbyterian Church's Annual Meeting was held on Sunday, May 23 at 6:00 pm at the church with a potluck preceding. Besides usual business, the AC provided information on what the Book of Order says about being a church, talked about what it would take to be a viable congregation (Session, Clerk, Treasurer, income, leadership) and did a financial reality check on how much it costs to provide weekly Sunday worship compared to the average collections – not counting needed building repairs and 2010 per capita that needs to be paid. The option of possibly becoming a “house fellowship” instead of trying to maintain the church building was highlighted.

At the meeting, members of the congregation voted on options and chose to elect three new elders to Session on June 6th and to try, with God's grace, to renew their vitality as a congregation once more. Although most of the old membership has gone, there are new homes being built up in the area.

Respectfully, Doug Horne & Deb Fleming for the Garrattsville Administrative Commission



The Administrative Commission for Rev. Dr. Barbara J. Schwartz
Susquehanna Valley Presbytery

Elder Joan Wise-Hostetter, Elder Doris White, Elder Richard Crocco,

Rev. Parrish Bridges, Rev. Steve Starzer, Rev. Dr. Jill Schaeffer,
Elder Charlie Mays – Moderator / Spokesperson

June 8, 2010

Susquehanna Valley Presbytery
12 Whitney Way
Bainbridge, NY 13733

Re: The Six Month Report to the Presbytery from the Administrative Commission for Rev. Dr. Barbara J. Schwartz

The commission was constituted on December 5, 2009 and has been meeting at least monthly to accomplish the objectives outlined in the Settlement Agreement. Minutes have been taken and approved by the commission.

Progress has been made on the specific objectives addressed and plans have been made to address the remaining objectives. Some objectives are prerequisites for other objectives and as of May 5, 2010, all the prerequisites were completed. The commission will continue to work on the remaining objectives and anticipates their completion on or before December 5, 2010 according to the Settlement Agreement.

The Administrative Commission will turn over the records of their work to the Co-Chairs of the Committee on Ministry upon completion of their work and dismissal, so that the Committee on Ministry Co-Chairs may thereafter exercise exclusive authority over the Reverend Dr. Schwartz in her practice as Minister of Word and Sacrament (as long as she remains a minister member of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley).

In Christ,

Elder Charlie Mays
Administrative Commission
Moderator / Spokesperson