

Minutes in Seconds
Digest of Actions Taken at Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
United Ministry, Delhi NY, June 10, 2008

- The meeting theme was “**Sustainer**” and we were welcomed by Interim Pastor **Martha Vink**. The meeting began around tables for a family style meal in the dining area below the sanctuary, and include the introduction of new pastor Rev. **Lisa Ruth Mays** (Walton), first time commissioners **Nadine Stenson**(Oneonta First UP), **Dorothy Rider**(Andes) and visitors and corresponding members **Paula Kem** (Presbyterian Foundation rep.), Rev. **Brooke Newell** (Advocacy Coordinator for Fab 5 PPG) and Rev. **Martha Vink**.
- Presbytery elected the following persons:
2009(2010*) Youth Advisory Delegate to Synod – **Joan Raube-Wilson** (West / Endicott Union)
2009(2010*) Alternate Minister Commissioner to Synod – **Tim Devine** (Endicott First)
*note that Synod terms are for two years and end just prior to the meeting of Synod in the fall of the year indicated. Persons elected to Synod also serve on the PPG – Presbytery Partnership Group.

Readers for Standard Ordination Exams (Fall 2008)

Elder **Linda Glajch** (Endicott First)

Rev. **Emrys Tyler** (Nineveh)

Theological Education Fund Representative:

Rev. **Barbara Schwartz** (Member-at-large)

Balinjera Representative (network of those in partnership with Ethiopian churches)

Nadine Carvin Stenson (Oneonta First UP)

Overture Advocate for “Amman Call” overture – Rev. **Len Bjorkman**

- **Good News** was shared around the tables by persons from Afton, Cabin Hill, Charlotte Valley, Conklin, Deposit, Dryden, Endicott First, Johnson City, Nineveh and West Delhi.
- **Heard** and received the report of the Interim Executive Presbyter Rev. **Cheryl Ann Elfond**
- **Adopted** recommendations from Council for a yearly Mission Statement review process; Regional Gatherings to be held in the Fall of 2008 and two in 2009; revision of the by-laws to incorporate the new definition of “Cluster”; and dates, with scripture themes for Presbytery Assemblies in 2009, under the general theme “Changing Times”:
 - **Saturday March 28, 2009** - Micah 6:8 – at Walton (guest Rev. Tom Long)
 - **Tuesday June 16, 2009** – Isaiah 43:19
 - **September 15, 2009** – Luke 4:18-19
 - **December 5, 2009** - Revelation 21:1,5
- Council has also signed a **Covenant** for its life and work together; and invites Presbytery to join in **Prayer and Fasting** prior to the Septemeber 2008 meeting. Funding Application for the **SHPC Creative Ministry** funds were also distributed, and a survey on interest in **Presbytery Day**.
- **Adopted** New Position Descriptions for the **Stated Clerk, Recording Clerk and Treasurer** which will take effect as those offices are newly filled.

- Presbytery **received** new minister members Rev. **Susan Goodin** (Interim, Gilbertsville) Rev. **Lisa Ruth Mays** (Walton) and examined and approved candidate **Patty Wolff** (New York City Presbytery) for ordination, as well as her call to serve as Pastor for **East Guilford and Unadilla**
- Said farewell to **Rev. Scott Conrad** (Bovina) who is taking a new call in Charlottesville, Virginia and **Rev. Ed Hoener** (John Hus) who is taking a new call in Tonawanda NY.
- Learned of the new call of the **Oneonta First United Presbyterian** Church (aka Red Door) to the Rev. **Cynthia Walton-Leavitt**, effective July 1, 2008 and that the Rev. **Tom Ballard** will be the Interim Pastor for **Andes**.
- Approved the **2008 Terms of Call / Contracts** for Pastors serving churches.
- Celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the **Lay Preaching** program.
- Heard a first reading of a proposal from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry for an additional ordination requirement of training in moderating meetings, for candidates for ministry.
- The Transformation Team reminded presbytery of the plan to use the **Acts 16:5 Initiative** in this Presbytery. DVD's are still available for any church or pastor who requests them.
- Members of the Justice in Mission Ministry Team presented an initial report regarding the natural gas drilling issue related to the "Marcellus Shale" as well as other continuing issues in their report and Stewardship of Creation Enabler **Brad McFall** (Ithaca) had a resource table in the hall.
- Reports from the Treasurer (April 30, 2008) and the summary annual statistics for 2007 from the Stated Clerk were received, along with a comparison from 2006.
- Presbytery **approved** the proposal to **increase honorariums for Pulpit Supply in 2009** to \$100 for one service and \$125 for two services for both clergy and lay preachers.

There were 35 elders, 30 ministers and 14 visitors registered as present at this meeting.

The **next** meetings of Council at the Mission Support Center are Wednesday Aug 20 and Sept 10 and the next meeting of Presbytery will be Tuesday, **September 23, 2008** a Nineveh.