

Minutes in Seconds
Digest of Actions Taken at Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
Brace Residential Center, Masonville NY, March 1, 2008

- The meeting theme was “**Redeemer**” and we were welcomed by Masonville Pastor **Rob Howard** and Camp Brace director **Barry Cole**, who gave a history from when it was a CCC camp in the 1940’s and for juvenile offenders from 1963 up to the projected closing of the facility on January 10, 2009. The meeting included a memorial minute for Elders and Ministers who had died in the last year, followed by worship around scripture in Exodus 14:30-15:24 and Mark 1:9-13, with reflections offered by four participants from the Council Retreat in January on “How does the wilderness become a place of transformation?”
- The Treasurers report, including **2007 Financial Statements** was presented by former Finance chair, **Phil Westcott** (West, Binghamton).
- Rev. **Allen Presby** presented the report of the Staffing Rationale Work Group and time was taken during the Assembly to break into 11 small groups which met in classrooms and corners of the gym for discussion of four possible models for the future of the Presbytery. These models were informed by the 90 surveys returned at and following the November Presbytery Assembly, as well as the weekend retreat of the Council in January together with the Synod co-executives and the Staffing Rationale Work Group. The responses and notes from the small group discussions at this Assembly will go back to Council as it works in April and May to bring recommendations to the Presbytery beginning in June and September. It is hoped that Sessions will appoint commissioners who can follow through with the discussions already begun as decisions are made. This process used the remaining two hours of the morning business session. Lunch was served buffet style in the small cafeteria at Camp Brace.
- A report on **Summer Camperships** available was given by Rev. **Diarmuid O’Hara** (Bainbridge), for the Christian Nurture Team. Applications are at youth.susvalpresby.org
- Members of the Justice in Mission Ministry Team, **Angelika St. Laurent** and **Sabrina Johnston** (both from Ithaca) gave a report about a conference entitled “Faith, Food and Fuel” and problems related to food, sustainable agriculture, and Hunger Advocate **Joyce Donohue** (Conklin) addressed her continuing efforts. World Water Day is March 22. Presbytery also met and heard from new Stewardship of Creation Enabler **Brad McFall** (Ithaca) who had a table with sign up sheets in the hall.
- Presbytery **approved concurrence** with an overture already being sent to the General Assembly by Heartland Presbytery requesting that the GA re-establish an office for Environmental Justice.
- The Transformation Team gave a 10 minute video presentation from the “*Acts 16:5 Initiative*” by **Stan Ott**, who will be coming to **Endicott First on Saturday, March 29, 2008** to give a two hour presentation.
- Under the Council report Presbytery approved recommendations formulated by the Cluster Task Force, including funding process, application and report forms and a redefinition of ‘Cluster’ to enable broader cooperation with churches which are not Presbyterian. The revised definition is:
“A ‘cluster’ is defined as two or more Christian congregations, at least one of which is PC(USA), joining cooperatively to do ministry or mission. When funding is requested from the presbytery, the governing boards of each congregation must formally endorse the cluster’s purpose. The projects need to be purposeful and reflect the mission of the Church to share the hope of Jesus Christ by bearing witness and addressing the needs of the community.”

- Presbytery received a first reading of 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.
- Presbytery elected the following persons
Council Chair for 2008 Rev **Janice Devine** (Endicott First)
General Assembly (San Jose, CA, June 2008):
 Alternate Youth Advisory Delegate **Allison Peak** (Johnson City)
Committee on Lay Preaching:
 2010 Rev. **Carol Wilson** (Charlotte Valley) term correction from Nov. 2007 report
Committee on Ministry:
 Co-Chair Rev. **James Hicks** (Honorably Retired)
 2011 Elder **Linda Riddell** (Oneonta First)
Committee on Preparation for Ministry:
 2010 Elder **Charles Nydam**(Dryden)
Permanent Judicial Commission:
 2013 Elder **Jane Park** (Endicott First)
Presbytery Nominating Committee:
 2011 Elder **Kathryn ‘Tat’ Baine** (Endicott First)
 2010 Rev **Taryn Mattice**(Protestant Coop Ministry, Cornell)
The terms of the Stated Clerk (James Martin) and Treasurer (Dana Wolfe) were extended to expire 12/31/2008

Council elected positions (only the newly elected or changed are listed):

Finance

- 2009 Rev. **Steve Starzer (Chair)**
- 2010 Rev. **Janet Abel**
- 2009 **Phil Westcott (West)** – has stepped down as chair

Council Nominating

_____ **Vacant - need people to help Elly Downing**

Personnel

- 2009 Rev. **Allen Presby (Delhi, First)**
- 2008 **Phyllis Camp** (Endicott First) – has stepped down as chair

Assembly Themes and Workshops

2009 **Janet Schwengber (chair)** and _____ **2 Vacancies**

Worship (3+) (worship planning at Presbytery events)

- 2008 **JoAnn Gray (chair)**
- 2009 Rev. **Cynthia Huling Hummel** (Waverly)
- 2009 Rev. **Jim Henery**(Ithaca)

Grant Funding Review

- 2010 Rev. **Robert Peak (chair)**
- 2008 **Laura Lawson**

_____ **Vacant**

Building and Grounds (for the Mission Support Center)

2010 **John Folmer(chair)** and _____ **2 Vacancies**

There were 27 elders, 27 ministers and 19 visitors registered as present at this meeting.

The **next** meetings of Council at the Mission Support Center are **April 16** and **May 28, 2008** and the next meeting of Presbytery will be Tuesday, **June 10, 2008** at United Ministry in **Delhi** with a theme of “Sustainer”