

**Minutes in Seconds**  
**Digest of Actions Taken at Stated Meeting of**  
**The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley**  
**Northminster Presbyterian Church Endwell NY, June 16, 2009**

The meeting theme was “**Isaiah 43:19.**” We were welcomed by Host Pastor **Lisa Heckman**. First time commissioners and guests were introduced including Inquirer **Elizabeth Campbell**, her mother, and former pastor and wife. **Joan Kellam** was welcomed and her husband, the Rev. **Jeff Kellam** (Presbytery of Geneva, Honorably Retired) was seated as a corresponding member.

**Consent Agenda approval** included the Stated Clerk’s Report, first-quarter Financial Reports, and 2009 Terms of Call recommended by COM. Stated Clerk’s Report included Summary of 2008 Statistics from the Office of the General Assembly. Minutes of March 28, 2009 Presbytery Assembly meeting in Walton will be reviewed and approved with June meeting minutes at the September Assembly.

Evening **Worship** featured “Joyful Noise” – a praise band from First Congregational Church, AshLeigh Bridges (college daughter of Rev. Parrish Bridges) inspiring us with liturgical dance, a dramatic reading “Letter From God” with Rev. Lisa Ruth Mays and Rev. Robert Peak, and the Lord’s Prayer signed Ariana Zbzezny (music director at West Presbyterian, Binghamton).

After Dinner and 30-second Announcements, A **Service of Recognition of Certified Church Musician Joan Kellam** (Organist, Owego) was led by Moderator Pat Raube, with Vice-Moderator Chris Burger presenting her official PAM certificate. The Owego Choir sang John Rutter’s “Lord bless you and keep you.”

Council Moderator **Deb Fleming** brought the **Council Report**. Dates were set for 2010 Presbytery Assemblies: Sat. March 6; Tues. June 8; Tues. Sept. 14; Sat. Nov. 20. Two action items were:

1. **Presbytery approved** the sale of property owned by **First Presbyterian Church Endicott**.
2. **Presbytery appointed an Administrative Commission (AC) to Garrattsville**, at the request of the Session (which had resigned) and recommendation of the COM: **Elders: Deb Fleming, Chris Burger, Enid Carter, Steve Atkinson and Ministers: Sue Goodin, Doug Horne, Carol Wilson**. The AC will 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.

**Allen Presby** gave updates on behalf of the **Personnel** sub-committee of Council. Office Administrator Christine Rogalski has completed her probationary period of work. Conversations on shared staffing with Cayuga-Syracuse and Utica Presbyteries continue – a proposal to share financial bookkeeping will probably be presented for approval in September.

**Plans for a Mission Support Center Clean-up on Saturday, July 11<sup>th</sup>** were publicized; volunteers should contact Office Administrator **Christine Rogalski** at the PMSC.

**IEPTT Cheryl Ann Elfond** presented a PowerPoint on “Healthy Ministry Conference Gems” (having just returned from the Big Tent in Atlanta). “A healthy presbytery builds spiritual maturity in the lives of the congregations and leaders.” “A healthy presbytery is not conflict averse or conflict driven.” “A strategic plan is good for about 3 years, and structure needs to be flexible.” We now have 7 trained Healthy Congregations facilitators ready to do workshops with churches; Elfond is now certified to train trainers.

The **Ethiopian Partnership** ministry team has 2 new members: Elder Judy Garnar (secretary) and Rev. Janet Able (treasurer). **Nadine Stenson** and **Terry Fitz-Henry** attended the Ethiopian Mission Network Conference in Sacramento in April on behalf of the presbytery. The EthMisNet PowerPoint will be available for viewing or download from the presbytery website: [www.susvalpresby.org](http://www.susvalpresby.org) 83% of the global population is functionally illiterate – meaning the gospel needs to reach oral culture.

**Christian Nurture** team report time was given to college students **Megan Gregory** and **Christopher DuMond**, who attended “Ecumenical Advocacy Days” in March after receiving Fab Five PPG scholarships. Gregory, a Cornell grad student attending Ithaca First (home church in Ohio), focused on Climate Change. DuMond is from Masonville Federated Church and spoke on the Palestinian issue.

**Brad McFall, Stewardship of Creation Enabler**, highlighted the Sat. June 27<sup>th</sup> visit by Mark Koenig from the Presbyterian Peace Program for the new “Peace Pole” at the Afton Church, with other visits Friday June 26<sup>th</sup> at Union Endicott, preaching Sunday June 28<sup>th</sup> at First Oneonta, and Sunday afternoon at Unadilla. He also promoted Church World Service postcards for Copenhagen Conference (climate change). The written JIM report noted that one of our PCUSA mission workers will be invited to visit this fall through “World Mission Challenge.”

For the **Transformation Team**, **Judi Gage** reported that so far 10 churches have committed to the **Acts 16:5 Initiative** with next workshop to be held in October. A “make-up” session will be offered to churches who missed the end of April event, but want to participate.

Inquirer **Elizabeth Grace Campbell** (Owego), who has completed 2 years of seminary at SFTS and was recommended unanimously by her church Session and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, was introduced by **Barbara Schwartz**, read her Faith Statement and then examined on the floor of presbytery. She was unanimously approved to be enrolled as a **Candidate for Minister of word and sacrament** in our presbytery. Moderator Pat Raube asked the constitutional questions.

The **Committee on Lay Preaching** report was written. May Lay Preaching classes included the Rev Mark Montfort - “What’s New in the Old Testament,” the Rev Patricia Raube - “Faithful Worship;”, the Rev Jill Schaeffer – “development of the Trinity;” the Rev Janet Abel – “how to structure an exegesis as background to preparing a sermon.”

Doug Horne brought action items from the **Committee on Ministry**. **Ithaca, First Presbyterian Church** was authorized to re-instate the position of **Associate Pastor**. Pastoral Assistant Rev. Kristin Sundt (United Methodist) is leaving for Minneapolis to pastor a Norwegian speaking Lutheran congregation. Elder **John Shafer** (Owego) was nominated and **elected to fill a COM vacancy** Class of 2011. In the COM written report, short-term pastoral service contracts were approved for Barry Downing and Endicott, First; Jim Hicks and McLean Community Church, and Jim Martin and Ross Memorial, Binghamton. Commissioned Lay Pastor Linda Breffle resigned from Nichols Church effective June 13.

**Synod of the Northeast and Fab Five PPG (Presbytery Partnership Group)** commissioner **Dale Francis** had both a written and oral report. He encouraged churches to ask for help, including taking advantage of mission funding opportunities.

The **Committee on Representation** has developed a demographic survey that also looks at “multicultural awareness” or ‘cultural proficiency’ for both churches and for church members. They will both be posted on the presbytery website.

**Robert Peak** gave the dedication prayer for the **Offering to CHOW** (hunger program) of the Broome County Council of Churches – by the “second go around” a total of **\$220** was collected. Moderator **Pat Raube** closed the assembly with Prayers from the People and unison **The Lord’s Prayer**.

There were 29 elders, 34 ministers and 22 visitors registered as present at this meeting. The next Presbytery Assembly will be **Tuesday evening September 15, 2009 at Unadilla Presbyterian Church**.