

Minutes in Seconds
Digest of Actions Taken at the Stated Meeting
of The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
Union Presbyterian Church, Endicott NY Saturday September 17, 2016

The Assembly gathered at 9 am, with Worship led by **Cynthia Burger, James Martin, Emrys Tyler and Pat Raube**. Presbytery remembered Ruling and Teaching Elders who had passed away since February 2015. Names were added verbally to the Necrology list. **Emrys Tyler** preached a sermon on Revelation 22:1-5 and Presbytery shared the Lord's Supper by intinction. An offering of \$442 was divided between the Global Peace & Witness Offering and Children of Abraham of the Southern Tier, a local interfaith ministry.

Presbytery Moderator **Patty Wolff** (East Guilford and Central Delaware Trinity) called the business meeting to order with prayer at 9:50 am. A quorum was present – 27 churches were represented by Ruling Elder Commissioners, 26 Teaching Elders, 1 Commissioned Lay Pastor, 2 Ruling Elders with vote due to office and 11 visitors and host church helpers. Host Pastor Pat Raube gave a welcome, directions and announcements.

First time commissioners and guests were introduced.

Allison Seed(Heartland Presbytery) representative from the Board of Pensions, was seated as a corresponding member. Jim Hicks(serving in Geneva Presbytery) was also present. A quorum was present with the total enrolled attendance of 67.

The Agenda and Consent Agenda were approved, with a correction (**Garrett Vittorio Schindler** as a Synod Commissioner) and addition of the Nominations Report to the Agenda.

Allison Seed gave a report on the new process from the Board of Pensions for employer coverage selections, due September 30, 2016. She addressed a variety of questions on this and the other changes for 2017, and was available throughout the rest of the meeting for individual questions and consultation.

The **Cabinet Report** was given by **Emrys Tyler**(at large) .

Presbytery **approved** the revised position description for the Treasurer.

He presented the First Reading of the revised Personnel Policies and commented on the changes. The policy will be brought to a vote at the November Assembly.

He also announced that **Cynthia Walton Leavitt** (Oneonta, First United) will fill his shoes as Personnel Chair after this meeting. Moderator **Patty Wolff** will serve as Cabinet Chair.

The Finance sub-committee report was given by **David Johnson**(Cortland United).

Presbytery **approved** a loan guarantee for **Binghamton United** for an energy loan from General Assembly in the amount of \$208,000.

Presbytery **approved** a loan of \$70,000 to Johnson City from the presbytery's revolving loan fund for 5 years at 3.25%.

Presbytery **approved** the proposal of Valley UPC to renovate the Waverly building, enter into a mortgage of up to \$500,000 at up to 5% interest (secured by assets of congregation) and place the Athens building up for sale.

Dates and places for **2017 Presbytery Assemblies** (all Saturday mornings) were approved:

March 18th (First Presbyterian Oneonta)

May 20th (Owego)

Sep 16th (probably Waverly, possibly a joint meeting with Lackawanna Presbytery)

Nov 18th (location TBD)

Cabinet had approved a \$30,000 Congregational Development grant to Delhi First for their Kirk Thrift Shop ministry, a pre-possession agreement with the Guilford Historical Society for the Guilford Center building and an Administrative Review Team to meet with the Hobart Presbyterian Church.

The draft 2017 Budget was presented for a first reading, along with an appeal to churches to increase their mission support and help the cash flow by remitting Per Capita earlier in the year, as opposed to holding it for a lump sum at the end.

Committee on Lay Preaching -- Joanne Aymar was commissioned as a lay preacher in absentia. A new class of lay preachers is in process, a retreat is planned at Sky Lake for Dec 2 & 3, and a pastoral care class begins in Oneonta with Chaplain Betsy Jay October 19. Bob Heinle is resigning from the committee, but will continue teaching the preaching classes. Chris Hooker, formerly on the committee has taken a position with the Society for Biblical Literature.

Presbytery approved a motion to extend the agenda 30 minutes to accommodate the remainder of the reports and business.

Committee on Ministry

Co-chair **Pat Raube**(Union, Endicott) reviewed the actions of the committee which included approving contracts and permission to form Pastor Nominating Committees. **Bainbridge, Deposit, East Guilford and Nineveh**, were added to the list of churches eligible to use Commissioned Ruling Elders for the Lord's Supper. Pat pointed out the new team which has formed based on prior discussions and concerns of churches: the **MOD squad, George Budine, Doug Hatch, JoAnn Aymar, Mark Montfort, Lisa Ruth Mays**. Their goal is to help churches envision and implement new or renewed "Models of Discipleship"

Since this is **Emrys Tyler's** last meeting in Susquehanna Valley, Presbytery said goodbye to him with multiple people sharing memories, thanks and words of appreciation for his ministry here, and wished the Tylers well in Western Colorado, presenting him a handcarved wooden Last Supper cross.

Presbytery **approved** a renewed **2016-2021 Partnership Agreement** with Western Wollega Bethel Synod in **Ethiopia**. Retiring EPMT treasurer **Emrys Tyler** led the Presbytery in prayer. Presbytery learned that there is much conflict and suffering in Ethiopia in these days.

The Christian Nurture team brought a **Child and Youth Protection Policy** for a first reading. Questions and comments were shared.

Mary Jane Schaeffer and **Nona Slaughter**(both Gilbertsville) reported on the Partnership Conference with the Czech Brethren held in Prague in April.

Cynthia Walton-Leavitt reported on the World Week is the of Prayer for Peace in Palestine/Israel, and held a workshop after lunch.

General Assembly Commissioners Patty Wolff and **George Budine** gave their report on this summer's General Assembly in Portland, Oregon.

Committee on Nominations -- **Garrett Schindler**(Bovina) gave the report and after opportunity for nominations from the floor, Presbytery elected additional commissioners to Synod in October RE **Marsha Muller**(Walton), YAAD **Mike Birdsall**(Gilbertsville) alternate YAAD **Emma Kindig** (Northminster) A brief commissioning service followed.

Good News and announcements were shared from several churches and individuals.

Presbytery adjourned with prayer, including laying on of hands to **Emrys Tyler**, at 12:42

The next Stated Assembly is Saturday, November 19, 2016, First Presbyterian Church, Gilbertsville, New York.