

Minutes in Seconds
Digest of Actions Taken at the Stated Meeting
of The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
United Presbyterian Church, Walton NY Saturday May 21, 2016

The Assembly opened at 9:08 am with Worship led by **George Budine, Patty Wolff, Kimberly Chastain, and Lisa Ruth Mays** with a sermon from Exodus 33. An offering of \$380 was divided between the Pentecost Offering and a local project providing Backpacks to students.

Presbytery Moderator **Patty Wolff** (East Guilford and Central Delaware Trinity) called the business meeting to order with prayer at 9:31 am. A quorum was present – 22 churches were represented by Ruling Elder Commissioners, 22 Teaching Elders, 2 Commissioned Lay Pastors, 3 Ruling Elders with vote due to office and 12 visitors and host church helpers.

First time commissioners were introduced: **Joi Brundage** (Andes), **Libby Cudmore** (Oneonta First), **Barbara Dillingham** (Nineveh), **Michael Krusinski** (Walton) and **Becky Smith** (Stamford). A quorum was present with the total enrolled attendance of 61. Youth Triennium participants were introduced later during the commissioning.

The Agenda and Consent Agenda were approved with removal of revised Position Descriptions of Treasurer and Stated Clerk.

Committee on Nominations -- Garrett Schindler(Bovina) gave the report and after opportunity for nominations from the floor, Presbytery elected:

- **Joan Oliver** (RE, Owego) **Cabinet** Class of 2018
- **Scott Kindig** (RE, Northminster) **Cabinet** Class of 2018
- **Rebecca Kindig** (TE, United, Binghamton) **Ordination Exam Reader**
- **Kimberley Chastain** (TE, United, Binghamton) **Ordination Exam Reader**
- **Jane Park** (RE, Union, Endicott) **Ordination Exam Reader**
- **Joan Wise Hostetter** (RE, Owego) **Ordination Exam Reader**
- **David Johnson** (TE, United, Cortland) **Alternate Ordination Exam Reader**

2 Synod commissioners and a Young Adult Delegate to Synod are needed.

Marena Vittorio Schindler (TE, Andes) was elected

A motion was approved to authorize the Nominating Committee and Cabinet to fill the remaining Synod positions.

Committee on Ministry

Presbytery **approved** an exception (in G-2.0504c), to permit **the Rev. Rebecca Kindig** to be eligible to be called as the half-time associate pastor at **Binghamton United Presbyterian Church**.

Presbytery **approved a motion** to permit the **Binghamton United** congregation to appoint the session as the Associate Pastor Nominating Committee.

Presbytery commissioned the following Ruling Elders to **preside at the Lord's Supper at the specified churches**:

Cheryl Nages and Paula Tillapaugh at Bainbridge First

Marsha Muller at Walton United and the Presbytery List of congregations needing Ruling Elders commissioned to Eucharistic Service ('the ES list')

Lynn Reeves at Afton and at congregations of the ES list.

Michelle Brackin, Fred Downs, Karen Marshfield, John Truscott at congregations of the ES list.

Presbytery empowered the Committee on Ministry to act on the Assembly's behalf when adding or removing congregations to the list of congregations for which Commissioned Ruling Elders can preside at the Lord's Table ('the ES list'), with the understanding that the Committee on Ministry will report such action at next Assembly.

Presbytery appointed an Administrative Commission to Install the **Rev. David Johnson** as the Pastor of **Cortland United** Presbyterian Church on Sunday June 26, 2016, consisting of the following: **Chris Burger**, RE **Binghamton United** - Chair; **Janis Martin**, RE **Cortland United**; **Pat Raube** TE Endicott, Union; **Kimberly Chastain**, TE **Binghamton United**; **Lisa Heckman** TE, **Owego**.

For the Ethiopian Partnership Ministry Team (**EPMT**), Lynn Reeves explained the flyer information and reported on the conference at Lincoln Nebraska. 2019 will mark 100 years of Presbyterian mission in Ethiopia after the arrival of Dr. Thomas Lambie in Dembi Dollo.

The **Cabinet Report** was given by **Emrys Tyler** who reported on his own upcoming moving schedule as he and Sarah respond to a call to move to Colorado this summer. Emrys will return for the Fall Cabinet and Presbytery meeting and anticipates a transfer to Western Colorado Presbytery.

The **Treasurer Position Description** was referred back to Cabinet for revision and updating.

Tom Bonne (RE, Cortland United) was elected to serve on Presbytery Nominating Committee in the class of 2019, beginning January 1, 2017.

After amendment, Presbytery **approved** a revised position description for the **Stated Clerk**

Presbytery approved reducing the listing price of the former **Mission Center building** in Bainbridge by \$25,000 each month, to a lowest point of \$199,000 on 1 September.

The Justice in Mission Ministry Team (**JIMMT**) gave a presentation about an event of Peacemaking and reconciliation between Hindus and Christians in Odisha State, India. Saima and Hemant Tandi spoke and showed slides of the gathering.

Vice-Moderator **George Budine** spoke about the changes in the New Beginnings program as the General Assembly drops staff support and refers churches to the Disciples of Christ (which originated the program). He led Presbytery in an exercise of praise and worship and encouraged us to look at our participation from God's perspective and consider how we can encourage our churches in worship and revitalization in the future.

Presbytery joined in commissioning 18 youth from 7 churches along with chaperones and sponsors to the **Youth Triennium** gathering at Purdue July 18-24.

Good News and announcements were shared from a dozen people and churches, and Presbytery adjourned with prayer before lunch at 12:04.

The next Stated Assembly is Saturday, September 17, 2016, Union Presbyterian Church, Endicott