

## **MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE**

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a Stated Meeting on Wednesday, October 30, 2013, at the First United Church of East Syracuse, New York. The meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m. by the Moderator, teaching elder Steve Thomas, who opened with prayer.

At the request of the Moderator, the Stated Clerk affirmed that a quorum was present. The docket was adopted as amended.

Corresponding members were seated.

First time ruling elders were introduced. The Presbytery received a warm welcome from a ruling elder representative of First United Church of East Syracuse.

### **Approval of previous minutes**

The minutes of the May 18, 2013 stated meeting of the Presbytery and the September 10, 2013 special meeting of the Presbytery were approved with minor corrections.

### **Report of the Stated Clerk/Communicator**

The Stated Clerk/Communicator, teaching elder Steve Plank, submitted his report.

1. All correspondence received on behalf of the Presbytery has been assigned, referred, or answered.
2. The 2012 minutes of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse were submitted to the Synod for review. However, with the unexpected death of Synod Stated Clerk, David Meerse, the results of that review were not available to be reported at the Synod Assembly meeting on October 19-20. I will report those to the Presbytery when I receive the information.
3. Information will be available in the next month or so about beginning the work to submit each congregation's annual statistical report to the General Assembly. Electronic submission of this report has been the norm for the past few years, and it will be the way this will continue to be done. I will make sure that clerks of session are informed about deadlines for submitting these important reports. I also will be available to help clerks if specific needs, questions, or glitches come up.
4. I will be working to keep the Presbytery's calendar of events up to date once again. It is important, therefore, to keep me informed about meetings, gatherings, or other events that are planned. Please be sure to drop me an email about things that are planned for any groups or committees in which you are involved.
5. Feel free contact me anytime; I am here to serve and help in any way I can. My phone number – which, of course, is now the phone number for the Presbytery – is (315) 632-5698. You also can email me at [steve.cspresby@gmail.com](mailto:steve.cspresby@gmail.com). I hope to have a "cayugasyracuse.org" email address soon, and am working with our Presbytery's tech person to make this happen.
6. I give thanks to God for being able to journey with you all in our common discipleship of Jesus Christ our Lord!

The Presbytery **approved** this report.

### **Worship, Communion, and Installation**

The Presbytery gathered around the Table for worship and the celebration of Communion. During the worship service, the Moderator led the Presbytery in a service installing teaching elder Steven W. Plank as the Stated Clerk/Communicator of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery then recessed for supper together.

### **Proposed Overtures to the General Assembly**

Upon reconvening, the Presbytery was presented, for a first reading, with two proposed overtures to the General Assembly. The first was an overture on Civil Marriage, and the second overture asks for an Authoritative Interpretation on marriages. An opportunity was given for questions to be asked. The Presbytery will be called to a special meeting shortly after the first of the year to consider and vote on these overtures. In the meantime, they will be sent to the Presbytery and posted on the website.

### **Report of the Leadership Team**

Teaching elder Pete Shidemantle presented the report of the Leadership Team. Since the May 18, 2013 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, the Leadership Team has held meetings on July 30, 2013, September 12, 2013, and October 8, 2013.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on July 30, 2013:

- A-1 Called a special Presbytery meeting for September 10, 2013 at Pebble Hill Church for the purposes of electing a new Stated Clerk/Communicator and for acting on 2014 minimum figures for terms of call.
- A-2 Changed the date of the October stated meeting of Presbytery so as not to conflict with the dates of the Synod Assembly.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on September 12, 2013:

- A-3 Approved an asset allocation of investment assets of 60% in equities, 35% in fixed income, and 5% in money market. This allocation can be changed at any point in time.
- A-4 Approved the use of \$50,000 of investment income for annual operations, and to set aside \$350,000 of presbytery assets to assist member churches in fulfilling the great commission.
- A-5 Approved funding (approximately \$1,000) for Gordie Howard to attend the Mid Council Financial Gathering in November.
- A-6 Approved the terms of call for Gail Banks to serve as Stated Supply at Amboy-Belle Isle with the equivalent status of Commissioned Ruling Elder.
- A-7 Received teaching elder Jane Dasher as a member-ar-large of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery from the Presbytery of Western New York.
- A-8 Voted to receive teaching elder Steven W. Plank as a member of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse from the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley, and certify him in good standing as a teaching elder, eligible to serve as Stated Clerk, subject to the election of the Presbytery.
- A-9 Validated the continuing ministry of teaching elder Sarah McTyre as Parish Associate at Park Central.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on October 8, 2013:

- A-10 Approved the retirement of teaching elder Lester Stanton.
  - A-11 Approved the formation of a special committee to decide how best and most faithfully to use the \$350,000 of Presbytery assets to assist our membership churches in fulfilling the Great Commission.
  - A-12 Approved a request from the Korean Partnership to endorse their funding application to Synod
  - A-13 Approved a request from teaching elder Shawn Reyburn to collect data from our congregations and their pastoral leaders for a special project on helping churches during times of transition, and to support his work on this project.
  - A-14 Approved a request from Isaiah's Table for \$4,000 for previously approved projects, to be taken from the proceeds of the sale of the property of Syracuse:First Church.
  - A-15 Approved the formation of an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee for the Skaneateles church, and appointed Bill Grossman as their liaison.
  - A-16 Approved permitting the Elmwood Presbyterian Church to place its property on the market and to authorize a Transition Team of 3-7 members to work with them in determining their future.
  - A-17 Appointed Barbara Wright as the Moderator of the Session at King Ferry Church
- The Presbytery voted to **receive** this report

The Leadership Team then brought three recommendations to the Presbytery for consideration and action:

- #1 That the Presbytery approve the contract negotiated by the Finance and Property Work Group for the sale of the campus of First Presbyterian Church United of Syracuse, New York to Missio Church for \$350,000, contingent upon the court's approval. (The effective date of the sale and the legal description of the property will be included in the minutes once it is finalized).

After discussion, the Presbytery **approved** this recommendation

- #2 That the Presbytery approve the 2014 Presbytery budget as presented.

The Treasurer, ruling elder Mark Peters, spoke to the Presbytery about the proposed budget, as did the chairperson of the Finance and Property Working Group, ruling elder Gordon Howard. Mr. Peters reported that the 2010 and 2011 audits had been finished. At the end of 2010, the Presbytery showed a profit of \$45,000 and a fund balance of \$664,000, with approximately \$65,000 in accounts payable. At the end of 2011, the Presbytery showed a profit of \$610 and a fund balance of \$664,000, with accounts payable of \$40,000. The Presbytery voted to **receive** these audit reports. The Presbytery then discussed the proposed 2014 budget. It was moved to amend the budget that \$4,000 for Youth Triennium be included in the 2014 budget. It was seconded. After discussion, the amendment was **approved**. It was moved to amend the budget that the monies for restoring Youth Triennium monies be funded by raising the per capita for 2014. After discussion the amendment was **not approved**. It was moved to amend the budget that the \$4,000 approved for Youth Triennium be funded from endowment investment income. After discussion, the amendment was **approved**. It was moved to amend the budget that this \$4,000 be a one-year commitment, with further commitment being referred to the Leadership Team in proposing future budgets. The amendment was seconded, and, after discussion, was

approved. After further discussion, the 2014 proposed budget was approved as amended. (See Appendix A for the budget.)

- #3 That the Presbytery consider a proposed amendment to the Bylaws, which was presented to the Leadership Team at its October 8, 2013 meeting, as follows:

***5.100 Special Meetings of the Presbytery***

*5.101 The Moderator of the Presbytery shall call a special meeting at the request, or with the concurrence, of two teaching elders and two ruling elders, being from different churches.*

*5.102 Should the Moderator be unable to act, the stated clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call.*

*5.103 If both the moderator and stated clerk are unable to act, any three teaching elders and three ruling elders, being from different churches, may call a special meeting.*

*5.104 Shall meet at the direction of the Synod (G-3.0304)*

*5.105 Notice of a special meeting shall be sent not less than ten days in advance to each teaching elders, to ruling elders with vote at meetings and to the sessions of every church. The notice shall set out the purpose of the meeting, provide any needed information to prayerfully be prepared to discuss and vote on the issues presented. No other business than that listed in the notice shall be transacted.*

After discussion, the Presbytery **approved** these changes to the Bylaws and Standing Rules, having exceeded the 2/3 majority vote required to change the bylaws..

The Leadership Team reported that they had received another proposed amendment to the Presbytery's Bylaws. This one outlined a process by which a member of the Presbytery or a commissioner to the Presbytery could express disagreement with decisions of the Leadership Team. The Leadership Team is in conversations with those who proposed this amendment and will report the results of those conversations at the next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.

**Report of the Synod Commissioner**

Teaching elder Karen Green presented a report from the October 19-20, 2013 meeting of the Synod of the Northeast. (See Appendix B for this report.)

**Report of the Nominating Committee**

Teaching elder Bob French presented the Nominating Committee report. From the Presbytery's action on nominations that were made at the May 18, 2013 Stated meeting of the Presbytery:

**Leadership Team:**

Doug Russell of Syracuse Westminster  
Donna Chapman of Whitelaw

Rev. Garrett Anderson of Liverpool  
David Sandwick of Lafayette  
Jean Smith of Weedsport

**Moderator:**

Rev. Debra Thomas

**Vice-Moderator:**

Rev. Sandy Sanderson

**Nominating Committee Chair:**

Former Moderator Robert French of Aurora.

**Nominating Committee Members:**

Linda Russell of Auburn Westminster  
Knowlton Foote of Lafayette  
Ann Wiley of Auburn First

**Permanent Judicial Committee**

Nancy-Caple Johnson of Park Central  
Tina Cassella of Fulton

**GA Teaching Elder Commissioner:**

Rev. Tracie Martin of Robinson Memorial

**GA YAAD:**

Becky Wind of Isaiah's Table

**Synod Teaching Elder:**

Rev. Earl Arnold

**Synod Ruling Elder:**

Wynetta Devore of Park Central

**Synod YAAD:**

Alieshaia Rosinsky of Lafayette

**Synod Council:**

Roberta Richardson of Northminster

Respectfully submitted:

Margaret Charters, Chair (Moderator 2002)  
Rev. David Nethercott (LT Rep.)  
Liz Buonocore (LT Rep.)  
Rev. Patricia Simmons (Presbytery Rep.)  
Rev. Karen Dimon (Presbytery Rep.)

The Nominating Committee then placed the following names in nomination for election at this meeting:

**For moderator of the Presbytery, 2014-2016:**

The Rev. Stuart Hayes of Baldwinsville

**For vice-moderator of the Presbytery, 2014-2016:**

The Rev. Sandy Sanderson

**For Ruling Elder Commissioner to 2014 General Assembly:**

Elder Jill Fandrich of Auburn Westminster

**For Young Adult Advisory Delegate to 2014 General Assembly:**

Becky Wind (Isaiah's Table)

**For Ruling Elder Commissioner to the Synod of the Northeast:**

Elder Charles Smith of Marcellus (class of 2016)

CRE Gail Banks (class of 2015)

**For Teaching Elder Commissioners to the Synod of the Northeast:**

The Rev. Earl Arnold

**For Synod Council:**

Roberta Richardson (Northminster)

**For Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the Synod (1 year):**

Aliashaia Rosinsky of LaFayette

**For the Leadership Team, class of 2017:**

Elder Sam Dance of Onondaga Hill

**For Permanent Judicial Commission, class of 2017:**

Ruling elder Fred Marty of Park Central, Syracuse

**For Nominating Committee chairperson, to be elected at the Annual Meeting in May 2014:**

The Rev. Steven Thomas

Respectfully submitted,

Robert French, Chair

Linda Russell

Knowlton Foote

Jean Harshaw

Barbara Wright

David Graham

Ann Wiley

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. The Presbytery then **approved** this report, electing the people to the positions indicated.

There were no items for consideration as new business. An announcement was made that Chris Brown, the coach to Isaiah's Table, will be in Syracuse on Nov. 7 for a few days. If anyone would like to attend the welcoming supper on Nov. 7, they can contact Isaiah's Table to make a reservation so that meal plans can be made.

The meeting of the Presbytery was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator at 8:05 p.m.

Steven W. Plank,  
Stated Clerk/Communicator

**Roll –**

**Teaching elders present:** Garrett Anderson, Mary Anderson, Lorrie Day Anson, Robert French, Karen Green, Bill Grossman, Stuart Hayes, Yong Ju Jee, Craig Lindsey, Roger

Martin, Tracie Martin, Andrew McTyre, Sarah McTyre, David Nethercott, Steve Plank, Gerald Platz, Shawn Reyburn, Howard Rose, Harold Sanderson, Jerald Shave, Pete Shidemantle, Caroline Simmons, Patricia Simmons, Debra Thomas, Saunda Thomas, Steve Thomas, Kathleen Waters, Harold Wheat, Barbara Wright

**Teaching elders excused:** Karen Dimon, Beth DuBois, Ginny Smith, Richard Smith, Earl Arnold, Dennis Doerr, Hal Abram

**Commissioned Ruling Elders present:** Gail Banks

**Ruling elder commissioners present:**

Amboy Belle Isle – Pat Milliman  
Auburn, First – Ann Wiley  
Auburn Westminster – Jill Fandrich  
Aurora – Eller Schaffer  
Baldwinsville – Jean Harshaw  
Cazenovia – Scott Campbell  
Chittenango – Rich Curtis  
Collamer –  
Dewitt, Pebble Hill – Chris Imboden  
East Syracuse – Joan O’Donnell  
Fayetteville – Beth Krauss  
Fulton –  
Hannibal –  
Jamesville –  
King Ferry – Neil Rotach  
LaFayette –  
Liverpool – Karen Fay  
Marcellus –  
Mexico – Susan Silliman Smith  
Morrisville – Sylvia McKinnon  
North Syracuse, Northminster –  
Onondaga Hill –  
Oswego – Leslie King  
Otisco – Robert Faddler  
Parish, New Hope –  
Port Byron –  
Scipioville – Trisha Collier  
Sennett –  
Skaneateles – Dave Graham (no second ruling elder)  
Syracuse, Elmwood – Merry Ellen Brzozowski  
Syracuse, Isaiah’s Table – Liz Buonocore  
Syracuse, Korean –  
Syracuse, Park Central – Craig Williams  
Syracuse, Robinson Memorial –  
Syracuse, South Valley –

Syracuse, Taunton –  
Syracuse, Westminster –  
Weedsport – William Smith  
Whitelaw –

**Leadership Team ruling elders present:** Pearl Fischer, Gordon Howard, Sandi Kreplin, Karen McDonough, Jeff Raner, Sharye Skinner, Charlie Smith, Craig Williams (counted above)

**Total present and eligible to vote:**

Teaching elders	29
Commissioned Ruling Elders	1
Ruling elder commissioners	22
Leadership Team ruling elders	7

**Total** **59**

**Corresponding Member:** Rev. Paul Doriani (Presbytery of Northumberland)

**Visitors present:** Linda Russell, Jim Schuyler, Judy Schuyler, Julie Raner, Shirley Myers, Natalie Minor, Frank McDowell, Ruth Haase, William Haase, Nancy Wind, Robert Armstrong, Carola Shave, Tim Fay

*(Minutes approved by Presbytery as submitted – May 17, 2014)*





**PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE  
2014 BUDGET**

EXPENSE DETAIL	2013 BUDGET	2013 TOTAL	2014 BUDGET
<b>PER CAPITA</b>			
General Assembly	33,134	33,134	33,619
Synod	18,810	18,810	18,917
<b>TOTAL PER CAPITA</b>	51,944	51,944	52,535
<b>PROGRAM</b>			
Vanderkamp	6,000	6,000	6,000
Youth Trienium	4,000	5,316	4,000
Committee on Ministry	1,200	1,236	1,200
Committee on Preparation for Ministry	650	0	650
GA Moderators Conference	1,200	0	1,200
Leadership Team Expenses	2,610	268	1,000
Mileage/nonstaff	2,000	0	500
<b>TOTAL PROGRAM</b>	17,660	12,820	14,550
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE</b>			
Real estate taxes	100	100	100
Rent (Storage Space at Synod Office)	1,200	1,200	1,200
Insurance	1,600	2,409	2,145
Telephone	500	1,007	1,200
Website/Internet	6,400	1,772	3,880
Equipment Repairs/Maintenance	500	535	500
Hospitality	500	0	500
Resources	100	0	0
Supplies	750	737	800
PO Box rental	320	330	330
Postage	350	275	350
Copying/Printing	375	0	375
Audit-External	3,300	7,020	3,620
Bookkeeping assistance	3,000	3,635	3,000
Contract Services Bookkeeper	10,754	9,413	10,600
Payroll Service	475	280	475
Bank Charges	200	0	0
Professional Travel	200	1,000	0
<b>TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE</b>	30,624	29,711	29,075
<b>HUMAN RESOURCES</b>			
Salary-Clerk/Communicator	55,000	16,250	65,000
Social Security Offset	4,208	1,025	4,973
Medical/Pension/Death/ Disability	18,150	4,538	22,750
Equipment		2,079	0
Disability		179	0
Workers Compensation		945	769
Unemployment Insurance	200	25	200
Continuing Education	1,200	300	1,200
Travel Allowance	2,400	600	2,400
Professional Expenses	2,400	301	2,400
Recruitment Expenses	13,950	6,421	0
Interim Clerk	2,692	2,639	0
Moving Expenses/Transitional Living		9,329	0
<b>TOTAL HUMAN RESOURCES</b>	100,200	44,632	99,692

Synod of N.E. Commissioner Report: Rev. Karen Green

Thank you for the opportunity to represent the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery at the Oct. 19-20, 2013 Synod of the N.E. meeting at Stony Point Conference Center.

A few touch points from this meeting were:

\*On Friday Evening, Public Policy Advocacy Network (PPAN), gave a presentation on White Privilege.

\*During Opening Worship, we moved through Memorial Moments for Synod Stated Clerk: Elder David Meerce and the installation of the moderator David Ashbury.

\* A New Way Forward was adopted by the Synod as a re-organizational plan which includes among many point:

~ networking systems for congregations around shared interests in mission projects. This network would engage/resource congregations across the Synod of the N.E. who have similar passions for a particular mission work which would begin and last for no longer than 2 years after its inception. The implementation of this new networking system would be enabled by the Synod of the N.E. as a resource to connect congregations in networking. For more information go the Synod of the N.E. webpage and click on Leadership. [www.synodne.org](http://www.synodne.org)

~the PPAN groups would be phased out during 2014 while the this new networking system is being engaged.

~Synod meetings for gathering of commissioners would be every 2 years with a Big Tent type event on the years in between these meetings.

\*After a lively Q & A, Rev. Thia Reggio was elected as our moderator. Her Bio states: "Rev. Rggio is working in the Long Term Recovery Response to Super Storm Sandy. When Sandy struck, just one week after her ordination, This felt called to respond to the request from the presbytery office for a volunteer to help coordinate relief efforts. With the support of her congregation, Thia stepped into this volunteer role, which then continued as a part time position first with the Presbytery of New York City and subsequently with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance under the auspices of the American Red Cross."

\*After a lengthy debate the Synod adopted a per capita of \$3.95.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Karen Green