

**MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF  
THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE  
22 MAY 2011  
AT PARK CENTRAL PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK**

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a stated meeting at the Park Central Presbyterian Church, Syracuse, New York on Sunday, May 22, 2011.

The Moderator, Rev. Janet Newman, opened the meeting with the lighting of the Christ candle and prayer at 3:04 PM. A quorum was confirmed by the Stated Clerk, Elder David Sperling. Rev. Newman welcomed the gathering and asked for visitors and first time elders to be introduced. Rev. Andrew McTyre welcomed the Presbytery to Park Central and offered directions.

Corresponding members were approved (see below), the docket was adopted as presented, and the Consent Agenda was approved (recorded below as individual items of business).

Attendance was taken by signing the roll, as follows:

**Minister Members of Presbytery:** Garrett Anderson, Lorrie Day Anderson, Earl B. Arnold, N. Scott Cupp, Karen Dimon, Dennis Doerr, Beth Dubois, Linda Even, Robert French, Karen Green, William Grossman, Stuart Hayes, Yong Ju Jee, Betty Jones, Craig Lindsey, Clarice Martin, Roger Martin, Tracie Martin, Andrew McTyre, Sarah McTyre, David Nethercott, Janet Newman, Gerald Platz, Elizabeth Quick, Marianne Rhebergen, Howard Rose, Harold Sanderson, Jerald Shave, Peter Shidemantle, Harvey Sindima, Caroline Simmons, Debra Thomas, Saunda Thomas, Steven Thomas, Eugene Turner, Kathleen Waters, Barbara Wright.

**Commissioned Lay Pastors:** Donna Chapman (Whitelaw)

**Elders Elected by Session:** Patricia Milliman (Amboy Belle Isle), Jean Harshaw (Baldwinsville), Steve McAttee (Cazenovia), LarScenia Thomas (DeWitt), Joan O'Donnell (East Syracuse), Beth Krauss (Fayetteville), Neil Rotach (King Ferry), Knowlton Foote (LaFayette), Linda Stewart (Liverpool), Domenick Petti (Marcellus), Susan Sillman-Smith (Mexico), Ruth Haase (Northminster), Robert Anderson (Onondaga Hill), Lillian Harter (Parish-Hastings), Jean Herst (Scipioville), Jay King (Elmwood, Syracuse), Nita Cleland (First Presbyterian Church United, Syracuse), Wynetta Devore (Park Central, Syracuse).

**Elders Appointed by Council:** Elizabeth Buonocore (First Presbyterian Church United, Syracuse), George Carruth (Onondaga Hill), Roberta Richardson (Northminster), Neil Rotach (King Ferry), Linda Russell (Westminster, Auburn), David Sperling (Stated Clerk), Marcia Vair (Morrisville).

**Certified/Employed Christian Educators:** None

**Administrative Personnel Association:** Gail Banks (RMPC)

**Presbytery approved the following minister and elders as corresponding members (with voice):** William Haase (Northminster), Carola Shave (First Presbyterian Church United, Syr.), Robert M. Armstrong (Amboy Belle Isle), Danielle Rotach (King Ferry), Sandra Arnold (DeWitt), Rev. Mary Anderson (Presbytery of Genesee Valley).

**Youth delegates active in congregations (voice only):** None

**Visitors:** Pearl Fischer (First Presbyterian Church United, Syr.), Diane Nethercott (Fulton), Janet Terwilliger (DeWitt)

**Inquirers/Candidates:** None

**Attendance Summary:** There were thirty-seven Ministers, one Commissioned Lay Pastor, eighteen elder Commissioners, seven elder council members, no Christian educators, no Educators, one Administrative Personnel Association, no Youth Delegate, six Corresponding Members, no Inquirer/Candidate, and three visitors. Seven of our forty congregations had neither an elder or minister present.

**Ministers absent without excuse from meeting:** George DeMass, Thomas Drake, Robert Herst, Neil Strong, Phil Windsor, and Eileen Winter.

**Churches not represented by an elder commissioner:** First, Auburn; Westminster, Auburn; Aurora; Chittenango; Collamer; Hannibal; Jamesville; Port Byron.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Presbytery, offered thanks to the Park Central Church for hosting the meeting and invited Rev. Andrew McTyre, Pastor, to speak about arrangements and accommodations.

Elder Linda Russell, using Rev. Ed Kang as an interpreter, welcomed Rev. Chang Man Jang of Pyongyang Presbytery, Republic of South Korea. Rev. Jang spoke for a few minutes, bringing greetings from the Korean Partnership Committee of Pyongyang Presbytery.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Presbytery **approved** items on the Consent Agenda. These actions are reported later in these minutes.

The Presbytery **approved**, through the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of its March 22, 2011 meeting as presented.

### **REPORT of the FUNDING REVIEW COMMITTEE** (approved through the Consent Agenda)

The Funding Review Committee recommended that the Presbytery approve:

1. \$3,200 for the work of the Health Tapestry Ministry & Mission Team as it continues to develop and expand the Faith Community/Parish Nursing Health Ministries Outreach in Southern Cayuga County.
2. \$1,825 for the Korean Partnership Ministry & Mission Team to cover local expenses for the visiting Korean delegation to a partnership planning meeting in Syracuse in June.
3. \$6,500 for the Haiti Educational Partnership Ministry & Mission Team to support teacher training, adult literacy, and cholera education in Dubre and Thibeau, Haiti.

The Committee reported that recommendations of Ministry & Mission Team funding for the first half of the year totals \$11,525, with \$11,213 left for the rest of the year. The deadline for third quarter requests is August 1.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY** (approved through the Consent Agenda)

The Committee on Ministry reported that it has

1. Approved the termination of the Interim Ministry Contract between the Rev. Janet Newman and Columbian Presbyterian Church of LaFayette, effective June 5, 2011.
2. Approved the call of the Columbian Presbyterian Church in LaFayette to Rev. Ronald Shawn Reyburn, effective August 7, 2011. The congregation approved the call at a congregational meeting on Sunday, May 1, 2011. Terms of the call are as follows:
 

Annual cash salary	\$34,252
Use of manse	10,276
SECA offset	3,406
Dental	871
Travel expense reimbursement (at current IRS rate .51)	3,500
Continuing education allowance	900
Vacation	4 weeks
Continuing education	2 weeks
Moving expenses will reimbursed upon approval of Session	
3. Voted to receive Rev. Ronald Shawn Reyburn into the Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse effective August 7, 2011.
4. Approved the request of the Rev. Debra L. Thomas to end her relationship as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Weedsport, effective May 22, 2011. The congregation approved her request to end the pastoral relationship at congregational meeting on Sunday, May 1, 2011.
5. Met with the Weedsport Session to begin the transition process, and appointed Elder Charles Smith and Rev. Jerald Shave as liaisons to the Session and (eventual) Pastor Nominating Committee.
6. Voted to receive Rev. Mary Anderson into the Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse as an At-Large Member upon the transfer of her membership from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, and to place her on the Pulpit Supply List.

**REPORT OF THE CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE** (approved through the Consent Agenda)

The Congregational Ministries Committee reminded the Presbytery that it makes recommendations annually concerning allocations of funds from the Congregational Vitality Fund. Current policy specifies that absent specific requests, 4% of a five-year rolling average be budgeted. In 2011, this amounts to \$11,361.

Several commitments were made over the past few years that continue through 2011:

Boaz Project, Korean Church of Syracuse	\$2,000
Youth Leader, E. Syracuse and Collamer Congregations	\$1,500

Commissioned Lay Pastor Dean (training program expenses)	\$1,500
Mission Insite contract for demographics services	<u>\$2,500</u>
	\$7,500

This leaves a balance of \$ 3,861 undesignated from the 2011 Congregational Vitality Fund allocation.

Recognizing that the Fay Giddings Scholarship Fund is presently dedicated to the support of our inquirers and candidates for ministry, the Congregational Ministries Committee has discussed and voted to recommend to Presbytery that twenty percent of the annual allocation from the Congregational Vitality Fund be reserved for scholarship requests of up to \$ 400 for persons seeking to attend a conference or training workshop, providing that specific plans be made to resource the Presbytery in some way over the following year. In 2011, this would provide \$2,272 in available scholarship funds.

If anyone is aware of other sources for continuing education/workshop scholarship funds for members of the Presbytery, please contact Rev. Karen Green (315-963-7902) or Elder Nancy Wind (315-487-7181), co-chairs of the Congregational Ministries Committee.

### **REPORT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES** (approved through the Consent Agenda)

On the recommendation of the Funding Review Committee, the Trustees have approved and distributed five grants from the Benevolence Fund. All \$7,200 that is available for 2011 has been awarded.

Following are the grants:

1. Amboy Belle Isle - \$300.00 to help several shut-ins and elderly needy families in the church's area with food gifts.
2. Collamer United - \$500.00 to provide immediate relief of financial hardship as a result of death of household provider.
3. Presbyterian Manor – Skaneateles - \$2,000 to enhance the life of well elderly people living at the Presbyterian Manor including supplementary funding for room rental, transportation, art lessons and supplies, and additional program for activities for residents.
4. First Presbyterian Church of Scipioville – \$1,900 to expand the ministries of Health Tapestries, Inc.
5. Westminster Manor, Auburn - \$2,500 to contribute to the renovation of kitchen to meet requirements of the Department of Health and improve food service to elderly residents of the manor.

The Trustees reported that the Howlett Hill manse has been sold and the presbytery has received payment in full. Further information will be presented at the September meeting.

### **REPORT of the KOREAN PARTNERSHIP M & M TEAM** (approved through the Consent Agenda)

The Korean Partnership Mission and Ministry Team thanked Presbytery for endorsing its application for a Presbyterian Women Birthday Offering Grant in the amount of \$155,000 to support the health care work and malaria eradication program sponsored by the Blantyre North Relief Project (BNRP) in Blantyre North, Malawi.

The M&M Team reported that it will host a delegation of Pyongyang Presbytery leaders June 6-10, 2011 for the purposes of 1) strengthening the relationship between the two presbyteries; 2) conducting meetings to discuss international affairs, joint mission work in North Korea and Malawi, and progress on the Overture approved by General Assembly in July 2010, as well as plans for new programs; and 3) meeting with Korean War Veterans and families with adopted children who have visited South Korea as guests of our partners to assess the results of these programs. The delegation was invited to attend our presbytery's celebration on June 12 with GA Moderator Cynthia Bolbach, but it proved too difficult for the pastors to be away from their home churches on Pentecost Sunday.

The official delegation will include Rev. Chang Man Jang, Moderator of the Pyongyang Presbytery Partnership Committee; Rev. Dal Ig Son, former moderator of Pyongyang Presbytery who signed the original Partnership Covenant in 2000; Rev. Myong Won Han, current Moderator of Pyongyang Presbytery; plus two other presbytery representatives. In addition, we anticipate the arrival of a reporter from the PCK (Presbyterian Church of Korea) Christian Press who would like to interview local Korean War Veterans and report on a ceremony to be held at the Korean War Memorial in Auburn in anticipation of a June 25 Korean War Commemoration in Seoul.

The Team reported that the delegation will join members of Presbytery Council for dinner on Tuesday, June 7, and will provide a power point presentation on their mission work in Malawi (a joint mission project with Blanktyre North Relief Project), the Philippines, and Zimbabwe. Members and friends of Cayuga-Syracuse are invited to attend this program. Watch for more details or contact Linda Russell at lsru@aol.com or 730-6930.

Pyongyang Presbytery has advised the M&M Team that plans for their Centennial Celebration have changed and that the trip for Cayuga-Syracuse delegates to visit Seoul has been postponed from October 2011 to early 2012, the exact dates to be determined.

### **REPORT FROM VANDERKAMP CENTER** (approved through the Consent Agenda)

**Work Day**...April 30 with the sun shining brightly and thirty-five willing workers

- ❖ Picnic tables were stained, electrical work done, with lots of raking and painting.
- ❖ Complete with a picnic lunch and fellowship all around! Much was accomplished.
- ❖ Two of the churches represented, First Presbyterian Church and St. Paul's Lutheran Church, both of Liverpool, have plans to come back in May to complete other projects.
- ❖ We greatly appreciate all the help we have been given and welcome those who have chosen to do a workday or mission with us.

**Summer Camp planning and registrations are well underway.**

- ❖ James Davis (Director of Program & Marketing), is working with the NYS Health Department on our yearly application as a Summer Camp.
- ❖ We are very excited about the staff we have in place for summer. While we continue to need nurses for a few weeks, our summer program is coming together nicely!
- ❖ Counting down the days until the first campers arrive!
- ❖ There is still time for campers to register for a week of camp, so please spread the good news about Vanderkamp to the youth in your area and church!
- ❖ If someone has questions, please encourage them to call the office--675-3651.

**Programs...2 NEW programs for 2011!** Please share this with others and call us with any questions!

- ❖ From August 14 to 18, we are hosting an intergenerational experience for anyone who wants to attend! Adults and children alike can enjoy our beautiful site and continue to grow in Christ

together. You can enjoy staff lead nature hikes, archery, arts and crafts projects, swimming and boating, adult and child bible studies and life discussions. This program is open to anybody, but an adult must accompany children attending. We have different pricing options for those who want to sleep in our lodges, cabins, or even want to bring their own tents! Stay for as little or as long as you like, but come enjoy some time and say hello! More information to come.

- ❖ Sept 30-October 2, we are also offering our very first programmed middle school faith retreat for children in 6th-8th grades, which includes focused small group discussions and larger group activities - worshipping with music, playing games, and enjoying fellowship with other Christian youth from the area. No youth group is too small to attend, since all small groups will be intermingled. This is a great opportunity to come to Vanderkamp.
- ❖ October 9-10 --the Youth Retreat for teens will enjoy its second year.

### **Retreats**

- ❖ Year-to-date retreat reservations are ahead of last year and with your support we will be able to maintain this.
- ❖ Those who have been on-site have enjoyed their time at Vanderkamp. Retreaters have gone from cross-country skiing to walking the trails, with their warm fires and fellowship.
- ❖ A Boy Scout, working on his Eagle Scout project, plans to prepare a brochure, including a GPS map of the trails. He is involving his troop to aid in improving the trail markers and with trail clean-up.

### **Winter Blues!**

- ❖ The hot water heater in the Commons periodically freezes and pipes break; it did so twice this winter.
- ❖ We noted that the system was filled with water. So when repaired, glycol was used in hopes of preventing future problems.
- ❖ Significant damage to the drywall in an area of the dining room and a wall of the Fireplace Room. Insurance has covered the damage and the work is currently being completed.
- ❖ Minor water damage in Frank Lodge to a wall and electrical, which need repair.
- ❖ Outdoor electric service poles and wires, which belong to Vanderkamp, are aged. We had two breaks in this system, mainly from wind. Repair plans are in progress on this.
- ❖ Roofs are needed on Director's House, Maintenance and Program Barns. Repairs needed on Oscar's.

## **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

Moderator Rev. Janet Newman called upon Rev. Stuart Hayes, Chairperson of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to present the Committee's report.

The Committee reported that it has received from Palisades Presbytery (NJ) Candidate LarScenia Thomas, who is now a member of Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, DeWitt.

The committee presented for Presbytery approval its recommendation that Candidate Kathleen A. Dain be permitted to use an alternative form of examination for her remaining ordination examinations (Theological Competency, Worship and Sacraments, and Church Polity), as follows:

Whereas Kathleen A. Dain was enrolled by this Presbytery as a Inquirer on September 27, 2008 and as a Candidate for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament on September 17, 2009 and has, therefore, been under this Presbytery's care for the required length of time (no less than two years – G-14.0403) for her to seek certification as ready for ordination, and;

Whereas she has completed the required three years of theological education, including courses in theology, polity, worship, Greek and Hebrew exegesis, ethics, church history and field education in a congregational setting, and;

Whereas she has been fully cooperative in maintaining a covenantal relationship with this Presbytery, through and under the supervision of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, including annual consultations (in August 2009 and August 2010) and annual written reports on her progress in studies and service to the church (G-14.0421), and;

Whereas she has experience in urban ministry, suburban ministry, ministry in an institutional setting, ministry in media (television) and ministry in the developing world (Honduras), and we have received glowing evaluations from supervisors and colleagues in all these settings, praising her contributions, professionalism and competence, and;

Whereas she has passed required denominational ordination examinations in the areas of Biblical Content and Biblical Exegesis, and has TRIED TWICE to pass required denominational ordination examinations in the areas of Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments and Church Polity, but each time HAS NOT SUCCEEDED in passing those examinations, and;

Whereas statistics indicate that candidates who fail to pass required denominational ordination exams as many as two times experience very limited success in third, fourth or fifth tries on these examinations, and;

Whereas Committee on Preparation for Ministry has received communiqués from the President of Pittsburg Theological Seminary, one of Kathy's Biblical Language Professors there, her Professor in the field of World Christianity there, her supervisor in field education with a suburban congregation, two colleagues in ministry in Honduras, as well as results from a battery of personality and vocational tests – all speaking to her faith, professionalism, giftedness, competence and suitability for ministry as a Minister of Word and Sacrament, and;

Whereas three of these references indicated their experience of her as a student who - in spite of her faith, professionalism and competence - found success on written examinations to be elusive at best, and recommended that she be examined orally by anyone wishing to measure accurately her readiness for ordination as a Minister of Word and Sacrament;

Therefore, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry recommends that the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse take the following actions:

- 1) Waive examination requirements (in accordance with section G-14.0472 BOO) for the above mentioned candidate in the three areas in which she has yet to pass and authorize the Committee on Preparation for Ministry to administer oral ordination examinations to her in the areas of Theological Competence, Worship and Sacraments and Church Polity. This would be done in consultation with people at General Assembly who oversee the development and administration of ordination examinations. Results would be reported to Presbytery at its next regularly scheduled meeting. Presbytery would vote at that time on certification of the candidate as ready for ordination as Minister of Word and Sacrament;

- 2) Permit, in the meantime, the above mentioned candidate to negotiate for service (in accordance with section G-14.0440 BOO).

Chairperson Hayes offered the following rationale in support of the Committee's recommendations: Kathleen has a history of difficulties with written tests but has exemplary recommendations from faculty at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary. The committee sought counsel of the Office of Vocation, Presbyterian Church (USA), and was given information concerning oral examinations. Additionally, Kathleen is seeking permission to negotiate with potential employers prior to completion of the exams as her present economic situation is a distraction from her exams.

There was some question about learning disabilities and the issue was addressed by Rev. Karen Green. Based on personnel experience, Rev. Green stated that such problems are real and that they can be debilitating. When properly dealt with, such problems can be overcome; therefore the request should be considered and approved.

After discussion, the question was called. A motion was made and seconded to approve the recommendations made by the Committee. The motion was approved with the necessary  $\frac{3}{4}$  vote per G-14.0471.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY COUNCIL**

Moderator Newman called on Council Chairperson, Elder Roberta Richardson to present the report of the Presbytery Council.

Minutes of the Presbytery Council's meetings of April 5 (final) and May 3 (draft), 2011 were included in the Presbytery packet.

Chairperson Richardson placed the following names in nomination, on behalf of the Council.

Rev. Caroline Simmons to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (class of 2013)

Elder Neil Rotach as Alternate Synod Commissioner (class of 2012)

After asking for nominations from the floor (there were none), the Moderator called for a vote. These nominees were elected on a voice vote.

**THE PRESBYTERY PARTICIPATED IN A SERVICE OF MIDDAY PRAYER**, with assistance from the choir and organist of the Park Central Presbyterian Church.

Following worship, Moderator Newman invited Chairperson Richardson to continue with the Presbytery Council's report.

A skit titled, "This Is Presbytery!" was presented by the Council and Transition Team. Written by Rev. Debra Thomas, the skit introduced the main points of the Transition Team's report.

### **REPORT OF THE TRANSITION TEAM**

Chairperson Richardson then called on Rev. Karen Dimon, chairperson of the Transition Team, to present its final report.

The full report of the Transition Team is presented in Appendix A.

Karen Dimon invited presbyters to indicate what they appreciated about the report. The following comments were offered.



1. The move away from a business model for the Presbytery.
2. There were both positive and negative comments on the fairness of the procedure.
3. Appreciation was expressed for the use of information gained from the listening sessions.
4. The vine and branches analogy was helpful.

Rev. Dimon then invited everyone present to participate in a time of Community Conversation, dividing themselves into conversation groups of four to six persons in order to discuss the Transition Team's report and identify any questions, writing them on 3x5 cards.

The Presbytery was asked to return from their discussion groups at 5:45 pm, for dinner in the Dining Room.

Following a delicious dinner, the Presbytery gathered again in the Sanctuary.

The Vice-Moderator, Rev. Steven Thomas, called upon Elder Georgette Schmidt to share good news regarding the work of the Haitian Education M & M Team. Members of the Haitian Education M & M Team reported on their recent trip and experiences in Haiti. Slides from their trip were earlier shown during dinner.

### **THE COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND RECORDS**

The Vice-Moderator then called upon Rev. Sandy Sanderson, Chairperson of the Committee on Overtures and Records. Rev. Sanderson presented the proposed Amendment 10-2, to include the Belhar Confession in the *Book of Confessions*, to the Presbytery for discussion and action, and spoke in favor of its adoption. Rev. Eugene Turner, a member of the Study Committee, spoke about the importance of the Belhar Confession.

Following discussion, Amendment 10-2 was approved unanimously by a voice vote.

### **REPORT OF THE PRESBYTERY COUNCIL**, continued

The Moderator/Vice-Moderator called upon Rev. Karen Dimon to continue the report of the Transition Team, for the Council. She noted that it would not be possible to answer all the questions, but the Transition Team would respond to a number of the themes articulated in the questions submitted.

Questions generated during the Conversation groups were separated into seven areas:

1. *What will be different this time?* It was not possible to say specifically, but the present situation is not acceptable and we must continue to try until we get it right.
2. *How can we learn to trust one another and heal wounds?* Face to face conversations need to continue as listening and understanding will build trust. Leadership has to be accountable and needs to admit errors when they occur.
3. *How will the structure change?* We don't know yet. That is the work the CREATION team.
4. *How will communications be improved?* Communications do need to be improved. One area with promise is the use of technology such as an effective and up-to-date web site. We need

- a web master to create an effective and current web site. Other areas, such as Twitter and Facebook can be incorporated into this effort.
5. *How did the Transition Team come to be, also the CREATION Team?* These teams were formed and charged by the Council.
  6. *How will we gather together?* We need to gather for learning and growth as disciples of Jesus Christ. This effort is underway, but its form is yet to be fully defined.
  7. *How will leadership in the Presbytery be developed?* Leadership is an important theme. Leadership can be developed within the presbytery by workshops or on-line training, especially for elders. Leadership is important to create a flexible, accepting environment to support those members who want to be heard.
  8. *How was the CREATION Team selected?* Members were solicited by the Council, in accordance with Standing Rule 8.0601. The time line for the CREATION team's work is to have two reports of activities and a vote on the final report, tentatively scheduled for the January or March 2012 Presbytery meeting.

Rev. Dimon thanked everyone who had contributed to the report.

Moderator Newman called upon Rev. Marianne Rhebergen, Transitional Presbyter, to present her report.

### **REPORT OF THE TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTER**

Rev. Rhebergen shared prayer concerns for a number of members of churches in the Presbytery, and on her visit with the Session and Deacons of First Presbyterian Church of Chittenango, following the passage of Amendment 10-A. She urged everyone to hold each other in prayer.

She also reported on matters relating to the Synod of the Northeast. The Synod Council is presently reflecting on the Synod's direction and future.

Finally, she announced that the Special Meeting previously called for June 12, 2011 has been canceled, due to a conflict in Moderator Cynthia Bolbach's schedule. The moderator has expressed a willingness to come on another date.

Rev. Rhebergen thanked the Transition Team for a job well done.

Moderator Newman called on Elder David Sperling to present the Stated Clerk's report.

### **REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK**

Stated Clerk Elder David Sperling reported that the Rev. George DeMass (H.R.) has resigned from the Congregational Ministries Committee.

We have learned that the Rev. Ares Davidian, Honorably Retired, passed away on March 29, 2011 at the Mercy Center of Northern New York, in Watertown. Notes can be sent to his widow, Diane Davidian, at 1351 Sherman Street, Watertown, NY 13601.

The Stated Clerk reported that Presbytery Council approved the following plan for equalizing the number of ministers and elders for voting purposes at meetings of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse:

Total number of minister members as of 4/1/11:	51	
Total elder commissioners from congregations:	41	
Commissioned lay pastor	1	(Donna Chapman)
Additional Elders from Council	4	(Marcia Vair, Bert Richardson, Sharye Skinner, Liz Buonocore)
Employed Christian Educators	<u>2</u>	(Leigh Ann Herd, Nancy Wind)
	48	
Additional Elders:	<u>3</u>	(Linda Russell, Lynda Fauler, George Carruth)
	51	

The Stated Clerk also reported on three meetings that he had attended in the past month.

1) The Board of Pensions meeting in Philadelphia – The Board’s meeting was very well done and very informative. The Board provides health insurance and retirement benefits to clergy and other church members. The Board has a very long term view to investments that ensures that they can continue to meet financial obligations well into the future, possibly one hundred years. In addition to a very long term view in planning, the Board is also actively planning implementation for the new federal health care program and is considering a plan to provide benefits to with same sex couples.

2) The Stated Clerks meeting at Stony Point – The Stony Point meeting was a very good experience as he was able to listen to and talk with Stated Clerks with vastly more experience than he. Their comments on duties and solutions were most helpful. While our Presbytery is undergoing significant change and the uncertainty that results from the prospect of change, it is obvious that other presbyteries in the northeast have their own considerable problems. The knowledge that our presbytery is not unique in having significant problems was comforting.

3) The New Stated Clerks Meeting at Louisville – The New Stated Clerks’ meeting was incredibly helpful with presentations by all staff of the General Assembly with whom he might interact. The material that was presented and the copies of same that returned with him will prove repeatedly useful. Additionally, interacting with the fifteen other new Stated Clerks provided him with the understanding that all new Clerks find the job a bit overwhelming, even those who are pastors with years of experience. It was notable that several of the new Stated Clerks were also Executive Presbyters.

The Moderator, Rev. Janet Newman, reported that there was no new business to bring before the Presbytery.

She then called all members of the Transition Team who were present (Rev. Karen Dimon, Elder Wynetta Devore, and Rev. David Nethercott) and the newly-appointed work group of Council, the CREATION Team (Rev. Craig Lindsey, Elder Gail Banks, Rev. Debra Thomas, and Rev. Andrew McTyre), to come forward. The charge given to the CREATION Team by the Presbytery Council is as follows:

First phase:

- Review input and recommendations concerning future mission and design of the Presbytery from the Transition Team and Presbytery Council (available May 2011)
- Review and digest the proposed New Form of Government (available at present)
- Review existing Standing Rules and policies (available at present)

Second phase:

- Building on input and recommendations above, discussion at the May 22, 2011 presbytery gathering, and in consultation with the Presbytery Council and Human Resources Committee, develop recommendations for the future structure and staffing of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse.

Third phase:

- Draft (or redraft, as appropriate) ByLaws and Standing Rules
- Develop a draft Manual of Operations and Policy Manual

Accountability: To Presbytery through the Presbytery Council, returning as needed for further authorization.

Reporting: Regularly to both Presbytery Council and Presbytery through email, meeting reports, presentations, newsletter, etc.

Timeframe: May through November 2011, with goal of draft proposal presented at the November 2011 Presbytery meeting, a revised proposal for the January 2012 Presbytery meeting, and a final vote at the March 2012 Presbytery meeting.

Staff Support: Stated Clerk David Sperling and Transitional Presbyter Marianne Rhebergen, as necessary.

After thanking both groups for their willingness to serve, she led the Presbytery in a litany of Thanksgiving and Commissioning.

**THE PEOPLE OF GOD DEPART**

The Moderator, Rev. Janet Newman, closed the meeting with prayer at 7:40 PM. The next meeting of the Presbytery will be held on September 27, 2011 at the Korean Church of Syracuse.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Sperling  
Stated Clerk