

**MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF
THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE
27 SEPTEMBER 2011
AT THE KOREAN CHURCH OF SYRACUSE
SYRACUSE, NEW YORK**

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a stated meeting at the Korean Church of Syracuse, Syracuse, New York on Tuesday, September 27, 2011.

The Moderator, Rev. Janet Newman, opened the meeting with the lighting of the Christ candle and prayer at 4:02 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. The introductions included three new Teaching Elder, Shawn Reyburn, Patricia Simmons and Mary Anderson.

Corresponding members were approved (see below), the docket was adopted as presented, and the Consent Agenda was approved as modified and is recorded below as individual items of business. It was noted that Presbytery Council minutes were included for information only.

Attendance was taken by signing the roll, as follows:

Minister Members of Presbytery: Mary Anderson, Peter Anderson, Lorrie Day Anderson, Earl B. Arnold, Karen Dimon, Beth Dubois, Linda Even, William Grossman, Stuart Hayes, Yong Ju Jee, Betty Jones, Craig Lindsey, Roger Martin, Tracie Martin, Andrew McTyre, Sarah McTyre, David Nethercott, Janet Newman, Marianne Rhebergen, Howard Rose, Harold Sanderson, Jerald Shave, Peter Shidemantle, Caroline Simmons, Patricia Simmons, Debra Thomas, Kathleen Waters, Barbara Wright, Shawn Reyburn.

Commissioned Lay Pastors: None

Elders Elected by Session: Patricia Milliman (Amboy Belle Isle), Jane Lumb (Westminster, Auburn), Haley Zabriski (Aurora), Jean Harshaw (Baldwinsville), Kathy Campagna (Cazenovia), Knowlton Foote (LaFayette), Tina Buzak (Liverpool), Domenick Petti (Marcellus), Susan Sillman-Smith (Mexico), Sylvia McKinna (Morrisville), Roberta Richardson (Northminster), Leslie King (Oswego), Linda Van Derhoof (Otisco), Dave Graham (Skaneateles), Carola Shave (First Presbyterian Church United, Syracuse), Daeho Kim (Syracuse, Korean), Carol Heimburg (Syracuse, Onondaga Valley), Joyce Packard (Park Central, Syracuse), Gail Banks (Robinson Memorial), Carol Heimburg (Syracuse, South), Sandra Kreplin (Weedsport), Bonnie Fuller (Syracuse, Westminster).

Elders Appointed by Council: George Carruth (Onondaga Hill), Linda Russell (Westminster, Auburn), Sharye Skinner (Cazenovia), David Sperling (Stated Clerk), Marcia Vair (Morrisville).

Certified/Employed Christian Educators: Becky Krebs (Liverpool), Leigh Ann Herd (Liverpool), Nancy Wind (First Presbyterian Church United)

Administrative Personnel Association: Gail Banks (also an Elder Commissioner for Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church, above)

Presbytery approved the following minister and elders as corresponding members (with voice): Linda Stewart (Liverpool), Allison Seed (Board of Pension), Robert M. Armstrong (Amboy Belle Isle), Joyce Short (Auburn, First), Alex Charters (Syracuse, Park), Margaret Charters (Syracuse, Park).

Youth delegates active in congregations (voice only): None

Visitors: James Davis (VanderKamp), Lisa VanVorce (Aurora)

Inquirers/Candidates: Sue Jee (Syracuse, Korean)

Attendance Summary: There were thirty Ministers, twenty one elder Commissioners, five elder council members, three Christian educators, no Youth Delegate, six Corresponding Members, one Inquirer/Candidate, and two visitors. Thirteen of our forty congregations had neither an elder or minister present.

Ministers absent without excuse from meeting: Susan Alloway, George DeMass, Thomas Drake, Mark Harrison, Robert Herst, Harvey Sindima, Neil Strong, Edgar Thornburg, Phil Windsor, and Eileen Winter.

Churches not represented by an elder commissioner: First, Auburn; DeWitt, East Syracuse, Fayetteville; Fulton; Hannibal; Jamesville; King Ferry; Onondaga Hill; Parish-Hastings; Port Byron; Scipioville; Sennett; Elmwood; Taunton; Whitelaw.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Presbytery, offered thanks to the Korean Church of Syracuse for hosting the meeting and invited Rev. Yong Ju Jee, Pastor, to speak about arrangements and accommodations.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

The Presbytery **approved**, through the Consent Agenda, the Minutes of its Special Meeting July 21, 2011 as presented.

REPORT of the PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (approved through the Consent Agenda)

Minutes of the regular meetings of the Presbytery Council held on June 7, 2011, July 5, 2011, and a special meeting on July 21, 2011 were provided for informational purposes.

REPORT of the BOARD OF TRUSTEES (approved through the Consent Agenda)

The Trustees, with the concurrence of Council, endorsed a request for a \$40,000 loan from the Synod made by the Columbian Presbyterian Church of LaFayette. The loan is to be used for repairs and renovations to the manse.

The Trustees, with the concurrence of Council, approved the request from the Chittenango Presbyterian Church to use \$20,976 from their manse fund to replace the handicapped lift with one which meets current code requirements, with the recommendation that those funds be replaced if at all possible.

The Trustees, with the concurrence of Council, approved the application for a \$150,000 bridge loan from Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program made by the Korean Church of Syracuse. This money, plus \$50,000 from the congregation, will be used to replace part of their asphalt parking lot with a porous or

semi-permeable surface and to construct of rain garden in front of the church to capture runoff. Once the project is completed and then inspected by the Onondaga County Green Improvement Fund, the congregation will be reimbursed in full for the cost.

REPORT of the CONGREGATIONAL MINISTRIES COMMITTEE (approved through the Consent Agenda)

The Presbytery **approved** the Congregation Ministries Committee request to authorize the serving of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper during the worship portion of the Making Disciples, Making Leaders training to be held in the chapel of First Presbyterian Church United, Syracuse. The dates are October 2, October 16, October 30 and November 13. Ministers will officiate.

Some things you should know about the Presbytery Leadership Training Event
Making Disciples, Making Leaders

- It begins October 2nd and continues October 16, 30 and November 13
- It is from 4:00- 7:15 each of the four Sunday evenings
- It will be held at First Presbyterian Church United, 620 West Genesee St., Syracuse
- Registration deadline is Monday, September 26th
- It is for Elders/trustees/deacons currently serving; Recently called/ordained elders/trustees/deacons; Pastors and educators
- Your pastor and/or clerk of session should have a copy of the brochure with more complete information about the program
- Dinner is included at no cost (through the Congregational Vitality Fund)
- There are required resources each participant needs to obtain to prepare for the FIRST session (listed below) and other sessions
- There will be 1-2 hours of preparation needed for each session (including the first session)
- Organizers will email each participant the reading assignments and worksheets for the first session by September 22nd OR packets of worksheets and reading list can be picked up at the Presbytery Meeting on Tuesday, September 27th

Please reserve spots for the program by contacting Becky Krebs or Nancy Wind by Monday, September 26th. Please include name and contact information (phone, address, email) for each participant.

Becky Krebs bjk8586@yahoo.com 457-3254

Nancy Wind nawind@twcny.rr.com 487-7181

Required Resources:

A Bible (all scripture quoted in handouts are from the NRSV)

A Book of Order

A Book of Confessions

Selected to Serve: A Guide for Church Officers by Earl S. Johnson. Available at a significant discount through www.TheThoughtfulChristian.com

Following the approval of the Consent Agenda, the Presbytery was led in worship by members of the CREATION Team (Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Elder Gail Banks, Rev. Debra Thomas, Elder Linda Stewart, and Rev. Andrew McTyre), Pastor Yong Ju Jee, and the Choir of the Korean Church of Syracuse. Rev. Lindsey preached a sermon titled, "To the Moon, to Mars, to Creation Anew!" based on selections from Matthew 19 and 20.

The Presbytery recessed for a dinner prepared and served by members of the Korean Church of Syracuse.

The Presbytery reconvened at 6:45 pm with a Sharing of Good News presented by Elder Jean Harshaw, concerning the plans of the Korean Church to install a rain garden and a water-permeable parking lot, with the assistance of a grant from Onondaga County and a bridge loan from the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program (PILP).

The Moderator, Rev. Janet Newman, thanked the members of the Korean Church for the delicious dinner.

REPORT of the PRESBYTERY COUNCIL, continued

The Moderator called on Council Chair Elder Roberta "Bert" Richardson to present the report of the Presbytery Council. Elder Richardson presented for a first reading a proposal developed by the CREATION Team, "Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse ByLaws, Standing Rules, and Manual of Operations." She introduced the members of the CREATION Team (Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey, Elder Linda Stewart, Rev. Andrew McTyre, Elder Gail Banks, and Rev. Debra Thomas) and invited them to offer remarks and entertain questions about the proposal. In a period of discussion, several members of the Presbytery raised questions and offered suggestions, resulting in several relatively minor changes to the document.

The Moderator reminded commissioners that this proposal will be reviewed by the Presbytery again at its regular meeting in November, and invited anyone interested to join members of the Council, Transition, and CREATION Teams in a planning day from 9 am to 3 pm on Saturday, October 29 at First Presbyterian Church United in Syracuse. The goal of the planning day is to develop proposed action steps and a timeline for implementation.

On behalf of the Council, Elder Richardson placed in nomination the name of Rev. Dr. Steven Thomas for a one year term as Alternate Synod Commissioner. After inviting nominations from the floor, it was moved, seconded, and voted to elect Rev. Thomas to this position.

Elder Richardson then introduced a proposed Overture to the Synod of the Northeast for action, with the following background: At the recommendation of Synod Commissioners Elder Neil Rotach and Rev. Steven Thomas, the Council recommends adoption of the following Overture to Synod Assembly. This Overture would change the beginning and ending dates of Commissioner terms.

Whereas two year terms are inconsistent with normal presbytery election process and cause confusion in nominating committees, and

Whereas terms ending immediately prior to the convening of the Synod Assembly precludes bringing the experience of the commissioners to the meeting,

Therefore the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse overtures the Synod Assembly meeting October 21-22, 2011 at Stony Point, NY to:

change the terms of Commissioners to Synod to three year terms, according to the following rotation: Elder in year 1, Minister in year 2, Elder and Minister in year 3; and change the timing of the terms to

correspond with the calendar year, simplifying the election process and allowing those with experience to finish their terms after the Synod fall Assembly.

Following discussion, the Overture was unanimously passed.

REPORT of the TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTER

Transitional Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Marianne Rhebergen, reported to the Presbytery on developments across the larger church, which is experiencing a significant period of ferment, revisioning, and restructuring at every level. In addition to the General Assembly's Middle Governing Body Commission (on which Pastor Karen Dimon of Northminster Church serves), several "grass roots" groups have emerged to foster conversation about the future of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A., including NEXTChurch.net, the Fellowship of Presbyterians, and Presbymergent.org.

Dr. Rhebergen called the Presbytery's attention to the thesis put forward by Phyllis Tickle, an Episcopal laywoman, that approximately every 500 years Christianity experiences a great transformation. With the confluence at this time of a number of streams (nearly fifty years of declining church membership, thirty-five years of struggle within the PCUSA over ordination standards, significant increases in the number of Americans who consider themselves "nones"—holding no religious affiliation, persistent differences concerning how to read and interpret Scripture, the post-modern distrust of large institutions and a growing preference for local communities, and a renewal of a "missional" ecclesiology within Western Christianity), a good argument can be made that we are living in such a period of tremendous change. By God's grace, Christianity will emerge from it with a new consensus, but perhaps not within our lifetimes.

This situation of change and flux creates stress, fear, and anxiety for many, and challenges Christians to deep trust in the promises of God. *"Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name, you are mine. When you pass through the waters, I will be with you..."* Isaiah 43:1a-2a This is our challenge, in the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, as well: to continue the journey into the future not knowing every sign-point on the map or the final destination, but trusting God to guide and go with us.

Finally, Rev. Rhebergen reported that the Synod of the Northeast, at its annual Assembly in late October, will be discussing several Overtures calling for that body to be reduced in function. The Synod Council is in the process of hiring a Transitional Leader to lead the Synod through a period of revisioning and redefinition similar to the journey of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse.

REPORT of the COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Committee recommended the appointment of an Administrative Commission for the Installation of the Rev. Shawn Reyburn as Pastor of the Columbian Presbyterian Church, Lafayette, NY on Sunday, October 30, 2011 at 2:30 pm. Members of the Commission are as follows: Ruling Elder Craig Shute (Columbian Presbyterian Church, LaFayette), Ruling Elder Dr. Wynetta Devore (Park Central Presbyterian Church, Syracuse), Teaching Elders Rev. Dr. Steven Thomas, Jr., Rev. Dr. Peter Shidemantle, and Rev. Janet Newman (Moderator).

Liturgists:	Ruling Elder Craig Shute
Sermon:	Ruling Elder Dr. Wynetta Devore
Charge to the Pastor:	Rev. Dr. Steven Thomas
Charge to the Congregation:	Rev. Dr. Peter Shidemantle
Constitutional Questions:	Rev. Janet Newman

The Administrative Commission to install Rev. Shawn Reyburn as Pastor of the Columbian Presbyterian Church was approved by a voice vote.

The Committee reported that it approved a call by the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Syracuse to the Rev. Patricia Simmons, a minister in the Reformed Church of America, to serve a three year term as Designated Pastor and Moderator beginning October 1, 2011. The Congregation held a special meeting on Sunday, September 11, 2011 to issue the call, with terms as follows:

- Cash Salary: \$34,252
- Housing Allowance: \$10,276
- Medical, disability, & pension: \$14,026
- 2 weeks study leave and \$900
- 4 weeks paid vacation
- Personal and professional expenses: \$1000 max. per year
- Travel: \$2,200 max. per year
- No SECA reimbursement

The Committee reported that it approved a contract between the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Weedsport and the Rev. Mary Anderson, Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse, to serve as Interim Pastor and Moderator, half-time, beginning September 15, 2011. A congregational meeting was held on September 11, 2011.

- Cash Salary, \$17,126 (\$17,438 in 2012)
- Housing Allowance, \$ 5,138 (\$ 5,272 in 2012)
- Total Effective Salary, \$29,278 (\$30,034 in 2012)
- Medical/Pension, \$ 7,014 (\$ 7,324 in 2012)
- Professional Expenses & Mileage: \$ 750
- Continuing Education: 2 weeks and \$ 500
- Vacation: 4 weeks

The Committee expressed its thanks to the Rev. Robert Masciola and the Rev. Dr. Craig Lindsey for their service as Moderators for the First Presbyterian Church of Weedsport and the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Syracuse, respectively.

The Committee announced the following additions to the Pulpit Supply List:

- Lorrie McCormack Cooney (Candidate under care of Carlisle Presbytery, PA)
5078 Bergenfield Way
Fayetteville, NY 13066 5
(H) 632-6030 (C) (717) 329-0293
e-mail Lcooney1@aol.com

- Pamela Jean Gnagy (Candidate under care of Utica Presbytery, NY)
3B Kings Court
Camillus, NY 13031
(H) 488-3149 (C) 867-8962
e-mail: pamelagnagy@gmail.com

REPORT of the COMMITTEE ON OVERTURES AND RECORDS

The Overtures and Records Committee reminded all Clerks of Session that there are multiple opportunities to participate in the annual review of Session records. A schedule has been developed and sent to each Clerk of Session. Please contact the Presbytery office (admin@cayugasyracuse.org) to let Renee know which of these meetings your church plans to attend.

The Overtures and Records Committee recommends the approval, with corrections, of the Minutes of the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse on May 22, 2011. The Minutes were approved by a voice vote of the Presbytery.

REPORT of the STATED CLERK

The Stated Clerk reported that there are a number of actions that Sessions should take over the next year to comply with the changes listed in the new Form of Government. These changes will be listed in a document to be sent to all Clerks of Session later in the year.

REPORT of the KOREAN PARTNERSHIP M & M TEAM

The Korean Partnership M&M Team is pleased to report on two joint mission projects supported by Cayuga-Syracuse and Pyongyang Presbytery: Lay Pastor Training in China and the Blantyre North Relief Project in Malawi. On behalf of the Partnership and the people served in these missions, we say "Thank You!" to the churches and individuals who support these missions.

Lay Pastor Training in China

In 1995 Rev. Han Jo and his wife, Rev. Eui Jung Kim, were commissioned by the Presbyterian Church of Korea as missionaries to work in Macau where they provide a two-year training course for Chinese lay pastors. As part of a Partnership project with Pyongyang Presbytery of PCK, Cayuga-Syracuse hosted Rev. Jo, Rev. Kim and their children (John, Susie and David) for 18 months in 2004-2005 while Rev. Jo attended Syracuse University. Through 2009 over \$41,500 was contributed by Cayuga-Syracuse churches to purchase textbooks and training materials for this mission which has trained over 10,000 men and women as lay pastors. In 2008 Rev. Dennis Doerr and Elder Steve Rothamel from First PC in Chittenango visited the mission in Macau, and in 2009 seven members of Presbytery's Korean Partnership M&M Team visited the training center in Macau as well as one of the mission sites in China.

In July 2011, Rev. Han Jo wrote:

"Our ministry of training lay pastors for China is progressing by God's grace. There are around 3,500 leaders who are [currently] participating and being educated. And there are 1,500 additional church lay ministers/leaders who are waiting for support. Last June, we invited 80 leaders to come to Macau to participate in [a] week long intensive training and we are planning to invite another 80 leaders to come to Macau in September and November 2011...Please help us pray that these plans would progress smoothly. Thank you. I pray that God's grace is always with you. Blessings! In His mission, Han Jo."

To-date in 2010, \$3,833.34 has been sent to Han Jo for the China Lay Pastor Training mission: \$2,833.34 from First PC of Chittenango and \$1000.00 from Mark and Jill Fandrich. In 2009 the delegation to Macau learned that every student in the lay pastor training program needs a special study bible which Han Jo has prepared and arranged to have printed. The cost is \$9/bible. Churches or individuals who would like to contribute to the China Lay Pastor Training mission may write a check to Westminster Church-Auburn and indicate "China Mission" on the memo line.

Blantyre North Relief Project - Malawi

Over the 10-year history of the Partnership, joint mission to the Blantyre North Relief Project (www.bnrrp.org, a mission founded and operated by the family of Rev. Harvey Sindima) has included such projects as hunger relief, digging three wells, building two homes for orphans, and supplying 10,000 tee-shirts and 200 hand-crank electric generators. BNRP, which began in 1985 by providing food and

clothing for a handful of children and elderly persons, currently provides assistance to over 700 children orphaned by HIV/AIDS, plus the elderly, physically challenged, and chronically ill.

BNRP currently faces two areas of critical need: (1) Food for orphans, particularly children age 5 and younger. Most orphans live with grandmothers without any means of supporting them. More than half of BNRP's resources goes towards feeding children through the feeding centre.

(2) Support for malaria eradication health care monitors for the ambitious and successful three-year BNRP malaria eradication project begun earlier this year. (This program is saving lives! A comparison of annual statistics shows a zero death rate in the treated area where deaths would ordinarily have been recorded.) This program includes the spraying of homes, the use of mosquito nets, education, and the testing, diagnosis, treatment and follow up care of all individuals (especially children under 5 and pregnant women) within the BNRP target area. Initial funding for equipment and medicine came through a grant from Korea International Corporation Agency (KOICA) of South Korea. However, the KOICA grant does not cover training or salaries for the 50 health care monitors needed to carry out the three year program. The 50 monitors have been thoroughly trained (at an expense to BNRP) and are supervised by health care professionals. Each monitor is to be paid \$100/month. Thus, the budget for salaries for the three-year program is \$180,000 (\$100 x 50 workers x 36 months). An initial donation of \$25,000 for salaries from a private donor has run out, and we are still waiting to hear if the Presbyterian Women's Birthday Offering grant application will be successful or at what level. In order to continue the work of the trained health workers and reach the remainder of the target population as well as follow up on those already treated, the program needs to raise funds for health monitor salaries now!

To-date in 2011, \$9,485.00 has been sent to BNRP: \$2,235 from First PC of Chittenango, \$6,000 from Westminster-Auburn, and \$1,250 from Mark and Jill Fandrich. Churches or individuals who would like to contribute to the mission of feeding orphans and furthering malaria eradication in BNRP may write a check to Westminster Church-Auburn and indicate "Malawi-BNRP Mission" on the memo line.

To learn more about these mission projects, or to schedule a program for your church or organization, contact Linda Russell at lsruss@aol.com.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD DEPART

The Moderator, Rev. Janet Newman, invited a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 pm, and closed the meeting with prayer. The next meeting of the Presbytery will be held on November 19, 2011 at the First United Church of Fulton.

Respectfully submitted,

David W. Sperling
Stated Clerk