

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

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a special meeting at Columbian Presbyterian Church, LaFayette, on Tuesday, May 5, 2015. The meeting was called to order by the Moderator, teaching elder Stuart Hayes, at 6:35 p.m., who opened with prayer. Host pastor, Shawn Reyburn, welcomed the Presbytery to the church.

The Moderator called on the Stated Clerk/Communicator, who attested that a quorum was present.

The call to the meeting was read by the Stated Clerk, teaching elder Steve Plank:

The Moderator of the Presbytery, teaching elder Stuart Hayes, has called for a Special Meeting of the Presbytery, as has been properly requested by several different individuals, for Tuesday, May 5, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at Columbian Presbyterian Church in LaFayette. The purpose of this meeting is:

1. To hear a report on financial issues, including the mortgage, related to Vanderkamp.
2. To vote on proposed amendments from General Assembly.
3. To vote on proposed amendments from the Synod of the Northeast.

Attest: Steven W. Plank, Stated Clerk

It was moved and seconded that Bill and Penny James, Executive Directors of Vanderkamp, be seated as corresponding members of the Presbytery for the duration of their time as Executive Directors of Vanderkamp. After discussion, the motion was approved. It was moved and seconded that ruling elder Linda Graves be granted voice but not vote at tonight's meeting. After discussion, the motion was approved. It was moved and seconded that Burt Ohmann from Utica Presbytery, be granted voice but not vote at tonight's meeting. After discussion, the motion was approved. It was moved and seconded that the Rev. Dr. David Cleaver-Bartholomew, a minister member of the Oneida Association of the United Church of Christ, be seated as a corresponding member. After discussion, the motion was approved. Teaching elder Pam Gnagy, the newly-installed pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Marcellus, was introduced to the Presbytery.

Teaching elder Sandy Sanderson led the Presbytery in a Service of Evening Prayer, with teaching elder Pete Shidemantle leading the music for the worship service.

Vanderkamp Report

Teaching elder Shawn Reyburn led the Presbytery in the report on the finances of Vanderkamp. Linda Graves gave the Presbytery some information on the history of Vanderkamp, which began in 1957. Penny and Bill James presented a summary of financial reports for 2014 and updates

for 2015. After much detailed information was presented, an opportunity was provided for questions to be asked.

A motion was made and seconded that the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse forgive Vanderkamp up to \$50,000 that the Presbytery is owed by Vanderkamp, and that the Presbytery provide a grant up to \$89,500 to Vanderkamp to pay off our portion of the existing mortgage, to come from our undesignated monies. After discussion, the motion was approved.

Proposed amendments from General Assembly

Teaching elder Sandy Sanderson, convener of the Records and Overtures Work Group of the Leadership Team, presented the proposed amendments that were approved by the 221st General Assembly (2014) and recommended to the presbyteries for their vote.

The Presbytery considered 14-1. By voice vote, the Presbytery approved this amendment.

The Presbytery considered 14-A, 14-B.1, 14-B.2, 14-C, 14-D, 14-E, 14-F. By voice vote, the Presbytery approved these amendments.

Proposed amendments from the Synod of the Northeast

Stated Clerk/Communicator, teaching elder Steve Plank, explained the background of the proposed amendments to sections of the new by-laws and standing rules that the 2014 Synod Assembly approved and sent to the presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes. In particular, he informed the Presbytery that the Permanent Judicial Commission of the General Assembly heard and decided a remedial complaint that was filed against the Synod. The complaint alleged irregularities of the Synod's vote that allowed young adult participants at Synod governing meetings to have both voice and vote. The GAPJC sustained the complaint and has ordered "that those portions of the Synod Bylaws allowing presbyteries to elect Synod commissioners who are not ruling elders or teaching elders, and allowing such commissioners to serve on Synod commissions, are declared null and void." While deciding that, the PJC's decision...

"commends the Synod's goal to hear the full diverse voice of the church as affirmed in F-1.0403: 'The unity of believers in Christ is reflected in the rich diversity of the church's membership. In Christ, by the power of the Spirit, God unites persons through baptism regardless of race, ethnicity, age, sex, disability, geography, or theological conviction.' In so doing, the Synod also honors the witness of Scripture, 'For God shows no partiality' (Romans 2:11).

"Nonetheless, the Synod erred in the approach it adopted because by definition a Synod is 'composed of commissioners elected by the presbyteries. ... The commissioners from each presbytery shall be divided equally between ruling elders and teaching elders.' (G-3.0401). This definition conforms to F-3.0202, which provides: 'This church shall be governed by presbyters, that is, ruling elders and teaching elders.'"

Given that background, the Stated Clerk/Communicator pointed out that a vote on the proposed amendments from the Synod will have no effect, since those proposals now have been vacated by the PJC's decision on May 2, 2015. Nevertheless, since the Synod is considering other avenues to bring this matter to the attention of the General Assembly, the presbytery's vote could well be helpful in furthering such efforts. After discussion, the Presbytery decided to proceed with voting on these amendments, and, by voice vote, approved the proposed amendments.

The purpose of the meeting having been accomplished, the meeting was adjourned at 8:35 p.m., with the Moderator offering a closing prayer.

Steven W. Plank
Stated Clerk/Communicator

Roll –

Teaching elders present: Garrett Anderson, Mary Anderson, Lorrie Day Anson, Donald Byers, Lorrie Cooney, Paul Doriani, Beth DuBois, Linda Even, Pamela Gnagy, Karen Green, Stuart Hayes, Yong Ju Jee, Robert Langston, Dwain Lee, Craig Lindsey, Roger Martin, Tracie Martin, Daniel McCollister, Sarah McTyre, David Nethercott, Steve Plank, Gerry Platz, Nick Preuninger, Shawn Reyburn, Sandy Sanderson, Jerry Shave, Pete Shidemantle, Debra Thomas, Eugene Turner

Commissioned Ruling Elders present: Donna Chapman

Ruling elder commissioners present:

Amboy Belle Isle – Robert Armstrong
Auburn, Westminster – Jill Fandrich, Linda Russell
Baldwinsville – Jean Harshaw
Cazenovia – Scott Campbell, Christine Jensen
Collamer – Jim Schuyler, Judy Schuyler
DeWitt, Pebble Hill – Bill Byrne
Fayetteville – Beth Kraus
Fulton – Rita Hooper
Jamesville – Rob Shallish
King Ferry – Neil Rotach
LaFayette – Robin Walburger
Liverpool – Tina Buzak
Marcellus – Deb English, Helen Stevens
Mexico – Susan Stillman Smith
Morrisville – Sylvia McKinnon
North Syracuse – Art Adamson
Onondaga Hill – Pat Carrigan

Otisco – Shaughn Anson
Scipioville – Barbara Adams
Skaneateles – Dave Graham, Doug Ruten, Virginia Fennessy
Syracuse, Isaiah’s Table – Karen Wolff
Syracuse, Robinson Memorial – Mary Browne
Syracuse, Taunton Memorial – Roy Miller
Weedsport – William Smith
Whitelaw – Edna Brown

Leadership Team ruling elders present: Charlie Smith, Karen McDonough, Jeff Raner, Sam Dance, Dave Sandwick, Jean Smith

Total present and eligible to vote:

Teaching elders	29
Commissioned Ruling Elders	1
Ruling elder commissioners	31
Leadership Team ruling elders	6
Total	67

Corresponding Members: Bill James, Penny James, David Cleaver-Bartholomew

Youth Delegates: Carolyn Redmos, Ronn Reyburn

Visitors present: Dan DeBrucker, Brad Walp, Barbara Yorton, Esther Jaquin, Barb Ohmann, Daphne Reyburn, Joan Riffanacht, Linda Graves, Cynthia Rooker, Barbara Gray, Chris Grudien, Rev. Jeff Kane (Upstate NY Synod of ELCA), Wendy Ellis, Cate Beardsly, Alex Charters, Shane Adams, Nancy Wind, Rebecca Wind, Shelly Col, Sue Jee, Nancy Redmore, Gail Runa

(Minutes approved by Presbytery – May 16, 2015)