

MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, October 20, 2015 at First Presbyterian Church of Liverpool, New York. The meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. by the Moderator, teaching elder Stuart Hayes, who opened with prayer.

The Moderator declared that a quorum was present, which was attested by the Stated Clerk. First-time ruling and teaching elders were introduced to the Presbytery. The Moderator introduced the new Leadership Team chairperson, teaching elder Pam Gnagy, and vice-chairperson, ruling elder Linda Russell.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the docket. Three items were asked to be added to the docket. Reports of the Synod of the Northeast Commission, and of the Nominating Committee. These will be considered under New Business. Permission was requested to allow Mr. Charles Hanley to address the Presbytery for 10 minutes after the docket is voted upon. There being no other requests or additions, the docket was approved as amended.

Ruling elder Linda Russell introduced Mr. Charles Hanley, retired investigative reporter and global correspondent with the Associated Press. Mr. Hanley wrote the book, *The Bridge at No Gun Ri: A Hidden Nightmare from the Korean War*, and shared some of his discoveries about what happened at the No Gun Ri incident in 1950. It wasn't formally investigated until 1999. Mr. Hanley's address provided the Presbytery with helpful background information for its later consideration of a proposed overture to the General Assembly about No Gun Ri.

The Stated Clerk/Communicator, teaching elder Steve Plank, presented his report. The Stated Clerk specifically noted these communications that had been received:

- a. A notification from the Presbyterian Church Investment and Loan Program that the loan taken out by the First Presbyterian Church of Marcellus on October 17, 2012 in the amount of \$46,947, of which the Presbytery was Guarantor, was paid in full on April 30, 2015, and a Discharge of Guaranty was issued to the Presbytery on May 19, 2015.
- b. A copy of the Certificate of Liability Insurance and of the Certificate of Property Insurance for the Federated Church of Port Byron, effective April 1, 2015 to April 1, 2016.
- c. A letter from the Onondaga Historical Association to the Rev. Marianne Rhebergen dated July 14, 2015, in which they acknowledged the donation of "28 cubic feet of First Presbyterian Church of Syracuse records, covering the period 1824 to 2012." The records apparently were donated sometime in 2012. At their request, the Stated Clerk executed a Deed of Gift document acknowledging the donation. The Stated Clerk then noted that, while sympathetic to the decision that those records are of historical value to Onondaga County, protocol and proper practice dictated that such records should have been sent to the Presbyterian Historical Society in Philadelphia.

The Stated Clerk occasionally is asked to write an interpretation about Church law and/or Constitutional issues that arise. He has written two such interpretations this year. The first was

written on February 20, 2015 concerning the relationship of the Presbytery with Isaiah's Table. This was written in response to an inquiry from the General Assembly in which they asked for verification of the formal, organizational relationship between the Presbytery and Isaiah's Table. The second was written on August 7, 2015 concerning a question of whether a Pastor Nominating Committee may examine candidates on their theological beliefs. This question was raised by a PNC in our Presbytery based on an article written in the newsletter of the Menlo Park Presbyterian Church after that church had decided to leave the denomination.

In consultation with others, the Stated Clerk prepared a draft of Bylaws and Standing Rules, along with an introductory document called Theological and Operating Principles, for the Presbytery's consideration and action. The current document of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse entitled "Bylaws and Standing Rules," as most recently amended in May 2014, is the result of much work, study, prayer, reflection, and ultimately the action of our Presbytery. Its purpose was to outline the new direction in which we wanted to move as a Presbytery, and then to identify ways in which we have tried to put that direction into concrete practices. It is an excellent foundational document that serves us well. However, *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR)* is very clear that the nature and purposes of Bylaws and Standing Rules of an organization are different. Therefore, what is being proposed is simply our current document, along with the original Preface that was presented at the time of the adoption of the document by our Presbytery, and rearranged things in a manner that strives to hold the integrity of the work that was done, and bring it into a different organizational format. There are only a few places where slight corrections were made from the original document, as noted in by the Stated Clerk in his introductory comments in the proposed document. It was moved and seconded that the Presbytery approve the document that includes Theological and Operating Principles, Bylaws, and Standing Rules of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse. After discussion, the motion was approved. (The document is attached as an appendix to these minutes.) The report of the Stated Clerk/Communicator then was approved.

The Moderator asked if there were any announcements to be made before the Presbytery recessed for supper. Teaching elder Mary Anderson spoke about the upcoming Church Leadership Development Day for New and Experienced Church Leaders, presented by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, to be held Saturday, January 23, 2016, at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, NY. Ms. Mary Roberts-Bailey, a member of the Pebble Hill Church, spoke about the Welcome Home Ministries, a project to interact with Interfaith Works in Syracuse. On May 9 a collection will be held for donations of gently used household things, as well as adopt-a-backpack project to collect and distribute school supplies, to be gathered at Pebble Hill. There being no other announcements, the Presbytery recessed for supper, provided by the members of the Liverpool church.

The Presbytery reconvened to continue its business.

Ruling elder Pam Gnagy presented the report of the Leadership Team. Since the May 16, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery, the Leadership Team has held meetings on May 21, June 18, July 16, August 20, and September 17, 2015.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on May 21, 2015:

- A-1 Distributed a rebate check from Guide One, in the total amount of \$11,051, to 20 congregations per a formula considering their original premium.
- A-2 Added the Rev. Ms. Gail Muckey, a minister member in good standing of the Oneida Association of the United Church of Christ, to the Presbytery's Pulpit Supply List.
- A-3 Approved the Teaching Elder member classification list as of the end of 2014. (This is attached as an appendix to these minutes.)
- A-4 Granted permission to the Presbytery Treasurer, ruling elder Mark Peters (Cazenovia) to choose a new auditor from the companies that submitted bids to do this, even though it will exceed the budgeted amount by a little.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on June 18, 2015:

- A-5 Acting with the authority granted it by action of the Presbytery at the May 16, 2015 Stated Meeting, the Leadership Team elected teaching elder Pam Gnagy as the new chairperson of the Leadership Team, and ruling elder Linda Russell (Westminster, Auburn) as the new vice-chairperson.
- A-6 Appointed teaching elder Dan McCollister as the moderator of the Council of the United Ministry of Aurora congregation.
- A-7 Appointed teaching elder Janet Newman as the moderator of the Session of the Scipioville church.
- A-8 Approved the mission study of the Chittenango church, and granted them permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- A-9 Approved the mission study of Westminster Church in Auburn, and granted them permission to form a Pastor Nominating Committee.
- A-10 Approved the Annual Terms of Call report for 2015 that had been submitted by the following teaching elder members of Presbytery: Garrett Anderson, Mario Bolivar, Beth DuBois, Craig Lindsey, Tracie Martin, Andrew McTyre, David Nethercott, Steve Plank, and Pete Shidemantle. (This is attached as an appendix to these minutes.)
- A-11 Approved the report from the Finance and Property Work Group that the Presbytery had issued check for \$85,888.78 to CNYPCC as our share of Vanderkamp mortgage payoff, per action of the Presbytery at its May 5, 2015 Special Meeting.
- A-12 Determined that regular, monthly meetings of the Leadership Team would continue to be on the third Thursday of most months at 5:00 p.m.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on July 16, 2015:

- A-13 The Leadership Team had referred a matter to the Committee on Ministry Work Group concerning the possibility of forming an Administrative Commission to work with the Session of First Pres. in Chittenango and their plans for becoming a union congregation, affiliated with both us and the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (EPC). However, the matter had become moot by the time of this meeting. The Presbytery of the East of the EPC informed the Chittenango Session that they would not receive that congregation into the EPC under any circumstances as long as they remained connected with the PC(USA).

- A-14 As recommended by the Finance and Property Work Group, after consultation with teaching elder Roger Martin (chair of the former Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church United of Syracuse), the Leadership Team authorized the Presbytery Treasurer, in the name of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery, to establish two Permanent Fund Accounts at the Presbyterian Foundation as proposed by the FPCU Administrative Commission and approved by the Presbytery in March 2012. As approved by the Presbytery, one permanent fund account in the amount of \$400,000 is to be in the name of Isaiah's Table and one in the name of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery Mission Initiatives for the amount of \$341,000.
- A-15 Approved the report of the Finance and Property Work Group that, as of the end of June 2015, the Presbytery had a total of \$1,788,865 in assets. Of that amount, a total of \$741,000 will be sent to the Presbyterian Foundation for investments as was authorized this evening. In addition, \$350,000 has been set aside for distribution as the Great Commission Funds.

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on August 20, 2015:

- A-16 Approved the sale of the property of South Valley Presbyterian Church, with the above terms:
1. The contract is dated July 24, 2015.
 2. The buyer is the Turkish Cultural Center (535 5th Avenue, NY, NY)
 3. The purchase price is \$250,000.
 4. The legal description of the property being sold is "all that certain parcel of land, together with all improvements thereon, situated in the City of Syracuse, County of Onondaga, State of New York, known as 275-77 Seneca Turnpike W., Syracuse, NY 13207. Tax Parcel Number 069.-07-01.0, being a Church... Together also with the appurtenances thereto and all right, title and interest, if any of the Seller in and to any land lying in the bed of any public street, road, or avenue opened or proposed, in front of or adjoining said parcels of land, to the centerline thereof."

Actions taken on behalf of the Presbytery on September 17, 2015:

- A-17 Received, with regret, the resignation of ruling elder Becky Wind (Isaiah's Table) as our Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the Synod of the Northeast. The vacancy was referred to the Nominating Committee.
- A-18 Approved the gracious invitation of the Liverpool church to host the October 20, 2015 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery.
- A-19 Received from the Stated Clerk/Communicator the draft of new Bylaws and Standing Rules, which will be presented to the Presbytery for action at the October 20, 2015 Stated Meeting.
- A-20 Formed a Task Force to design a process that will help the Presbytery reflect on the report of the consultant that was used earlier this year. Ruling elder Linda Russell (Westminster, Auburn) and teaching elder Craig Lindsey volunteered to serve on this, and will bring a report to the October Leadership Team meeting that would lay out a process for this.

- A-21 Asked the Human Resources Work Group to examine the Stated Clerk's position description for ways in which it could be modified, expanded, and/or shared with other presbyteries, denominations, or some of the functions might be done by volunteers within the Presbytery.
- A-22 Approved the 2016 budget as presented, with thanks to the Finance and Property Work Group, and recommend it to the Presbytery.
- A-23 Approved changes to the Pulpit Supply List that were proposed by the Committee on Ministry Work Group.
- A-24 Approved several items from the Committee on Ministry Work Group regarding teaching elder Paul Doriani:
1. Validated the ministry of teaching elder Paul Doriani to serve as the Consulting Pastor of Redeemer Presbyterian Church (EPC) until April 1, 2016. (This is a new church development, and is within the bounds of the Presbytery of Lake Erie.)
 2. Paul will remain a member of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse during this time.
 3. COM will not validate his ministry with the Redeemer congregation after the above date.
 4. By January 1, 2016, the COM requests that Paul provide to the committee an update on his process and discernment about future ministry goals and denominational relationships.
 5. By January 1, 2016, COM respectfully requests that the Presbytery of Lake Erie send the committee an update on their observations about this situation.
- A-25 Appointed teaching elder Linda Even moderator of the session at Cazenovia.
- A-26 Approved the mission study done by the Fulton congregation.
- A-27 Authorized ruling elder Linda Russell (Westminster, Auburn) to recruit people from the Presbytery to serve on a Task Force to coordinate our efforts in supporting the Presbyterian Youth Triennium, which will be held at Purdue University in Lafayette, Indiana on July 19-23, 2016.

Ruling elder Gordie Howard, chairperson of the Finance and Property Work Group, presented the proposed Presbytery budget for 2016. It was moved and seconded to approve the budget. Gordie explained the process and decisions that the Work Group used in building the budget. During further discussion, a motion was made and seconded to amend the budget by changing the effective salary of the Stated Clerk/Communicator from the proposed figure of \$69,623 to \$67,890. This would amount to an increase of 1.9% of his 2015 effective salary. After discussion, the amendment was approved. After further discussion, the amended budget for 2016 was approved. This included per capita assessment amounts of \$7.07 for General Assembly, \$4.00 for Synod, and \$24.15 for Presbytery, for a total per capita assessment of \$35.22. This is a slight decrease from the proposed total of \$36.00, due to the change of the effective salary of the Stated Clerk/Communicator. (The final budget for 2016 is attached as an appendix to these minutes.)

The Presbytery expressed its gratitude and deep appreciation to the recently retired members of the Leadership Team who served the Presbytery so faithfully during the past three years: teaching elder Pete Shidemantle (chairperson) and Sarah McTyre (vice-chairperson), and ruling

elders Karen McDonough (Cazenovia), Charlie Smith (Marcellus), and Craig Williams (Park Central).

Penny and Bill James, co-Executive Director of Vanderkamp, presented a report on the summer camping program (330 paying campers), and also the highlights and challenges of this past year. They also expressed their appreciation to our Presbytery, as well as the Presbytery of Utica, for the generous gift that enabled them to pay off Vanderkamp's mortgage. They mentioned that the need for summer camp chaplains is great. They reminded the Presbytery that Vanderkamp is open 52 weeks a year, so consider coming out for a church event.

In the absence of a chairperson, the Stated Clerk/Communicator presented the report of the Nominating Committee. The Presbytery has these vacancies at present:

Leadership Team

Class of 2016 – 2 needed

Class of 2017 – 2 needed

Vanderkamp Board

Class of 2018 – 1 needed

Commissioners to 222nd General Assembly in Portland (June 18-25, 2016)

Teaching elder commissioner – 1

Gordie Howard was elected as our ruling elder commissioner, and Shaughn Anson was elected as our YAAD.

Synod of the Northeast

YAAD – 1

Permanent Judicial Commission

Class of 2017 – 1 teaching elder

Class of 2021 – 2 (1 teaching elder and 1 ruling elder)

Nominating Committee

At-large members – 3

The Committee nominated the following for immediate election:

As Teaching Elder Commissioner to General Assembly – Lorrie Cooney

As at-large member of the Nominating Committee – ruling elder Neil Rotach

The Moderator asked for any nominations from the floor. Hearing none, the Presbytery elected the people nominated for the positions indicated.

The Committee also recommended that the two vacancies on the Leadership Team for the class of 2016 not be filled. This is due to the fact that they will hardly have time to get oriented to their ministry before their term expires. After discussion, the motion was approved.

Submitted by the Nominating Committee:

Pete Shidemantle, Sarah McTyre, Craig Williams, Karen McDonough, Charlie Smith, Neil Rotach

A report on the Presbytery's preparation for participation in the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium was presented by teaching elder Mario Bolivar. The Presbytery's own Triennium

website has been set up: www.ourdelegation.weebly.com. Information and updates will be posted there on a regular basis. The cost for the Triennium is \$505/person, not including transportation. The goal of the Triennium Task Force is to make this affordable for everyone.

Ruling elder Tracie Martin presented the report of the Great Commission Funds Task Force. The following motion was made and seconded:

“That the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse distribute the \$350,000 reserved for the Great Commission Task Force equally to all churches and worshiping communities associated with the presbytery, including Isaiah's Table and Elmwood, by the end of the year with no requirements, except that they cash the check within six months of receipt or the money reverts to the presbytery.”

The Task Force held listening sessions around the presbytery, including Auburn First, Robinson twice, Oswego, Scipioville, and Isaiah's Table, which drew 48 individuals representing 22 different congregations or worshiping communities. The final question that they began to focus on is this: does this money amount to a bailout, or to a stimulus, or is this just about grace? As a result of careful listening at all of the events that were held, they really determined that this is about grace. That is the basic rationale for the motion they are now bringing to the Presbytery.

The Presbytery expressed its deep appreciation for the work of the members of the most recent Great Commission Funds group, who affectionately called themselves the Give ‘Em Bucks Committee: Tracie Martin, Mary Browne, Neil Rotach, Garrett Anderson, and Pam Gnagy. The Presbytery also recognized the long and hard work of the original Great Commission Funds Task Force, and expressed its appreciation for their faithful efforts: Karen Green, Gordie Howard, Sharye Skinner, Gloria Hooper, Baird Hansen, Beverly Miller, and Phil Windsor.

After discussion, the motion was approved.

A proposed overture to the General Assembly was presented concerning the Korean War killing of civilians at No Gun Ri. It was moved and seconded to send this overture to General Assembly. Discussion was held. When the discussion was concluded, the Presbytery voted to approve this motion. (This is attached as an appendix to these minutes.) Six people voted to abstain; teaching elder Mario Bolivar asked that his abstention be recorded in the minutes.

Under New Business a written report was presented by ruling elder Charlie Smith to the Presbytery concerning the work and actions of the Synod of the Northeast Commission.

Highlights of the report include:

- Our Presbytery needs to appoint a Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the Synod Commission.
- \$30,000 has been authorized to give to each of the presbyteries in the Synod to help support the 2016 Presbyterian Youth Triennium.
- The Synod is sponsoring an event on October 30-31 called “Come to the Table.” This kind of event will replace the Synod Assembly every other year. (The Synod Assembly just began going to biennial meetings.)
- On November 13-14 in Albany, the Synod is hosting a Presbytery Convention in which Presbytery Moderators are invited to attend and report to each other what their Presbyteries are doing and discuss what problems they are encountering.

The report was received.

Also under New Business a motion was made and seconded to amend the Presbytery's Standing Rules (SR 7.0505) regarding proposed sales of church property.

“Whenever a member congregation of the Presbytery requests permission to sell or otherwise encumber property entrusted to them, that congregation shall specify the disposition of any funds realized from the sale. This specification shall be based on the Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304).”

After discussion, the motion was approved.

Before adjournment, the Presbytery paused to give thanks to God for the life and witness of ruling elder Jean Smith (Weedsport), who had died a few days prior to this meeting.

There being no further business, this meeting of the Presbytery was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator at 9:20 p.m.

Steven W. Plank,
Stated Clerk/Communicator

Roll –

Teaching elders present: Garrett Anderson, Mary Anderson, Earl Arnold, Mario Bolivar, Linda Even, Pam Gnagy, Karen Green, Stuart Hayes, Yong Ju Jee, Ed Kang, Dwain Lee, Roger Martin, Tracie Martin, Dan McCollister, Andrew McTyre, Steve Plank, Shawn Reyburn, Sandy Sanderson, Jerry Shave, Pete Shidemantle

Teaching elders excused: Brigid Boyle, Lorrie Cooney, Karen Dimon, Bob Godbout, Craig Lindsey, Sarah McTyre, Janet Newman, Debra Thomas, Kathleen Waters

Commissioned Ruling Elders present: Donna Chapman; (Gail Banks – excused)

Ruling elder commissioners present:

Amboy Belle Isle (2) – Robert Armstrong
Auburn, First (2) –
Auburn Westminster (2) – Donna Hunt
Aurora (2) – Vivian Hughes
Baldwinsville (2) – Jean Harshaw
Cazenovia (2) – Kathy Kuoff, Robert Carr
Chittenango (2) –
Collamer (2) –
Dewitt, Pebble Hill (2) – Mary Roberts-Bailey
East Syracuse (2) – Joan O'Donnell
Fayetteville (2) – Beth Krauss
Fulton – Rita Hooper
Hannibal –

Jamesville –
King Ferry – Neil Rotach
LaFayette – Robin Sandwick
Liverpool – Richard Pelote
Marcellus (2) – Sandy Manciocchi
Mexico – Susan Stillman Smith
Morrisville –
North Syracuse, Northminster (2) –
Oswego –
Otisco – Gordon Howard
Parish, New Hope – Julie Raner
Port Byron –
Scipioville –
Sennett –
Skaneateles (4) – Dave Graham
Syracuse, Elmwood –
Syracuse, Isaiah’s Table – Nancy Wind
Syracuse, Korean – Mark Lee
Syracuse, Onondaga Hill – Steve Arnold
Syracuse, Park Central (3) – Susan Stinson
Syracuse, Robinson Memorial (2) – Mary Browne
Syracuse, South Valley –
Syracuse, Taunton – Roy Miller
Syracuse, Westminster –
Weedsport – Sandra Kreplin
Whitelaw –

Leadership Team ruling elders present: Pearl Fischer, Jeff Raner, Sam Dance, Dave Sandwick, Lennie Turner, Linda Russell; (Donna Hunt registered as a commissioner)

Leadership Team ruling elders excused: Mark Peters, Doug Russell, Nancy Johnston

Total present and eligible to vote:	
Teaching elders	19
Commissioned Ruling Elders	1
Ruling elder commissioners	25
Leadership Team ruling elders	6
Total	51

Corresponding Members: Bill and Penny James

Visitors present: Charles Hanley, George Yu, Gary Spear, Frank McDowell, Liz Buonocore, Rebecca Chaffee

(Minutes approved by Presbytery as submitted – May 14, 2016)

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse Theological and Operating Principles

Adopted Oct. 20, 2015

*I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower . . .
Abide in me as I abide in you.
Just as the branch cannot bear fruit by itself unless it abides in the vine,
neither can you unless you abide in me.
I am the vine, you are the branches.
Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do
nothing. (John 15:1, 4-5 NRSV)*

In his departing words, our Lord Jesus Christ commanded his followers to fulfill the Great Commission as found in Matthew:19-20. “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything that I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”

We remember that Jesus is with us, directing us and guiding us as we strive to continue his work on earth.

We remember that we are part of the larger Church, to which we are called, established by God to be Christ’s hands and feet in the world.

We remember that Christ is the Head of the Church, and so we seek to follow his direction, using the gifts of the Spirit which we are so freely given, and fulfilling our vows to serve God’s people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

We are a connectional Church. We are connected in relationship to God, to one another, and to the world. “We affirm that together as a representative body, the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, we have heard our Lord command and compel us all to carry out the Great Commission. We share a common mandate to cross streets and neighborhoods, cultures and continents to make disciples who reach levels of maturity capable of carrying out the will and purpose of Jesus Christ.” (*Quote from the Transition Team report, p. 9*)

As the blessed creation of God, branches on the vine rooted in Christ, united and empowered by the Holy Spirit, we seek to bear fruit for the kingdom of God, as we work together in order to fulfill the Great Commission as commanded by our Lord. Apart from him we can do nothing. Abiding in the vine, we claim the assurance that we will be faithful witnesses to the love of God through our service and ministry to others offered in Christ’s name and to the glory of God: Creator, Redeemer, and Friend.

The Presbytery’s complete restructuring that began in 2012 was based upon principles that we believe shaped the adoption of a completely new Form of Government in the *Book of Order*,

2011-2013. In our opinion this meant making a radical shift from the 1960's redemptive language as evidenced in the Confession of 1967 in the *Book of Confessions* to an entirely new genesis as the Church in the 21st century. Included in this shift are the following affirmations:

1. While for decades we have added and expanded layers of rules and order, this new creation **shifts the focus** from rules and regulations to a permission giving grace.
2. While we have spent a great deal of time and energy legislating how, where and when we should be in connection with each other, this new creation **returns to the historical roots** of how we were Presbyterians together in the early days of our denomination and nation.
3. While many passions have become attached to many different aspects of our institutions that have grown up in our denomination and our presbytery over the decades, this new creation **trusts in “the dominion of providence** over the passions.” (*John Witherspoon, May 1776*)
4. This new creation **changes the highest common denominator** from being rules and the lowest common denominator being relationships to just the opposite.
5. This new creation **depends on**
 - a. trust among ourselves
 - b. responsible behavior
 - c. encouraging fellowship
 - d. seeking communion
 - e. choosing to do mission and ministry together as the Church
 - f. being community
 - g. making effective use of the social media revolution

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse Bylaws

Adopted Oct. 20, 2015

Article I – Name

This organization is known as the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, incorporated on September 18, 1956 pursuant to Section 15 of the Religious Corporation Law of the State of New York, as filed in the county of Onondaga, State of New York, on October 9, 1956. It is the successor corporation to the former Presbytery of Cayuga and the former Presbytery of Syracuse. The Presbytery is organically a part of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), whose corporate offices are in Louisville, Kentucky, and the Synod of the Northeast (or successor organization), whose corporate offices are in Syracuse, New York.

Article II – Relationships

Presbyterian congregations (PCUSA, or Federated, or United) agree to be part of a Presbytery together.

PCUSA Presbyterians share a common theology with other Protestant Churches (ELCA Lutherans, UMC Methodists, UCC Congregationalists, RCA Reformed Churches), or established by By-Laws and Articles of Agreement with ABC Baptist, DC Disciples, and PECUSA Episcopal congregations. What unites Cayuga-Syracuse as a Presbytery is our faith in the Triune God, trust (hope) in one another, and shared desire for connection (love) in communion, mission, worship, fellowship and accountability. While differing interpretations and cultures are present in each congregation's identity, what affects any one congregation affects the whole Presbytery; the mission, preaching, ministry and sacraments of each, are indicative of the whole of the Presbytery. Therefore, the many congregations are not alone or in competition with one another, but sharing strengths and weaknesses, concerns and opportunities for building up the body of Christ together. Together we are the Presbytery, we are one Vine with many branches. The Presbytery, so conceived, emphasizes the relationship of communion and shared ministry between representatives of congregations, and between Teaching Elders, rather than as a corporate and administrative institution.

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse as defined by the Form of Government is a “council” of the Presbyterian Church. It is composed of the 39 worshiping communities (38 congregations plus Isaiah’s Table) within the New York counties of Cayuga, Onondaga, Madison, and Oswego.

Article III – Members

Members of the Presbytery are all of the Teaching Elder (Minister Members) of this Presbytery, regardless of denomination of ordination, Commissioned Ruling Elders appointed to serve any of our congregations, and Ruling Elder commissioners of the Session/Councils of the congregations

of the Presbytery and of Isaiah's Table.

Responsibility of Voice without Vote shall be granted to all Certified personnel validated by the Presbytery (Commissioned Ruling Elders, Certified Christian Educators, Certified Business Administrators), who are not currently employed by a church; whereas responsibility of Voice with Vote shall be granted to all Certified personnel as validated by Presbytery who are currently employed by the churches of this Presbytery.

Corresponding Membership (Voice without Vote) shall be granted to all ordained ministers/priests of other Religions and Christian denominations, as well as to those members of other Presbyteries, Synods and the General Assembly.

Parity of Teaching Elder/ Ruling Elder imbalance shall be established in part by granting all elected installed members of the Leadership Team responsibility of Voice and Vote.

Article IV – Officers

The Officers of the Presbytery shall be: Moderator of Presbytery, Vice Moderator of Presbytery, Chair of Leadership Team, Vice Chair of Leadership Team, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer, elected with parity (fair representation) between Teaching and Ruling Elders.

Article V – Meetings

Regular Stated meetings shall be held in accordance with G-3.0105 and G-3.0301. There shall be two (2) regular Stated meetings a year (May & October) as directed under G-3.0304. The Annual Meeting shall be in May.

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. The Presbytery also shall meet at the direction of the Synod (G-3.0304)

The quorum for any regular (stated) or special (called) meeting of the Presbytery shall be a minimum of five Teaching Elders who are members of the Presbytery, and five Ruling Elders, from five different congregations.

Article VI – Trustees

The Leadership Team of the Presbytery is what has at various times been described as “The Council, The General Council, The Executive Committee, etc.” The Leadership Team shall consist of 15 members made up of representation of diversity of Churches. Leadership Team membership will be for a three (3) year term without possibility for immediate renewal. Following the example of the particular churches, the Leadership Team shall serve as “session” and “trustees” of Presbytery. The Leadership Team members are therefore elected to serve with

all responsibility as The Trustees of the Presbytery.

The Presbytery Moderator, Vice Moderator, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer shall be ex officio members of the Leadership Team, with Voice and without Vote.

Article VII – Standing Committees and Work Groups

Responsibilities of the Leadership Team shall include all functions of: Preparation of Candidates; Examination of Candidates; Calling of Pastors; Validation of Ministries as outlined in G-3.0307; CRE Dean; Moderators for Sessions; Keeping of Records; Review and Action on Overtures; Review of Minutes; Finance; Property Legal Actions; Leadership Development;

The Leadership Team has responsibility for establishing and supervising standing Work Groups and Committees to carry out the above functions. These will have responsibility for the following areas of the life and ministry of the Presbytery:

- Committee on Preparation for Ministry Work Group
- Committee on Ministry Work Group
- Finance and Property Work Group
- Leadership Development Work Group
- Records and Overtures Work Group
- Committee on Representation

A Nominating Committee is a standing committee of the Presbytery. The Nominating Committee shall consist of nine persons: the five members of Leadership Team, who have just finished their three year term, to then serve a one year term on Nominating Committee; the Nominating Committee chair shall be a previous Moderator of Presbytery, without vote unless in the case of a tie; three members that have been nominated by Nominating Committee and elected by Presbytery at the Presbytery's Annual Meeting. The Nominating Committee shall consist of no more than five Teaching Elders. No person shall hold office for more than a one year term, without a one year interval.

The Presbytery shall elect a Permanent Judicial Commission consisting of seven (7) members, divided as evenly as possible between Teaching and Ruling Elders. It shall meet and elect from its members a moderator and a clerk. (D-5.0201) Members of this commission shall serve six-year terms according to D-5.0102.

The Leadership Team is responsible to appoint Administrative Commissions, Investigating Committees, and Ad Hoc Committees as needed; each to be dissolved upon completion of their charge, or with the re-constitution of the Leadership Team. Said Ad Hoc committees may be reconstituted at the discretion of the Leadership Team.

Article VIII – Parliamentary Authority

The Presbytery shall be guided by the most current edition of the *Book of Order*, Part II of the

Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), as its primary parliamentary authority. When parliamentary questions arise that are not addressed in the *Book of Order*, the Presbytery shall be guided by the most current edition of *Robert's Rules of Order, Newly Revised (RONR)*.

Article IX – Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any Stated meeting by two-thirds vote of members present and voting, provided that notice of the proposed amendment has been previously submitted to the Presbytery Leadership Team for its consideration. Presbytery Leadership Team shall transmit the proposed amendment to members of Presbytery along with the docket, which is distributed ten days in advance.

Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse Standing Rules

Adopted Oct. 20, 2015
Amended Oct. 20, 2015 (7.0505)

SR 1 – Definitions

- 1.01 The Presbytery is that body of the Church comprised of all of the Presbyterian (United or Federated) congregations (as represented by particular Ruling Elders), all Teaching Elders and Certified personnel, within a geographic area; accountable to both the particular churches, the Synod and the General Assembly.
- 1.02 Teaching Elders are ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament, whether serving a congregation, in a validated ministry, serving at large, serving outside the geographic bounds of the Presbytery, or Honorably Retired.
- 1.03 Ruling Elders are the Ordained Elders of a particular church.
- 1.04 Commissioned Ruling Elders (CREs) are ruling elders who are “commissioned to limited pastoral service as assigned by the presbytery,” as prescribed in G-2.10 in the *Book of Order*.

SR 2 – Officers and Staff of Presbytery and Leadership Team

- 2.01 Officers shall be those defined in Article IV of the Bylaws.
- 2.02 All officers shall be elected according to G-3.0111; election to occur at the October meeting of Presbytery; installation to occur at the following May Presbytery; with the intervening months, to be a time of transition and training.
- 2.03 The Moderator of Presbytery shall be elected for a two (2) year term, without renewal and shall have authority and responsibilities according to G-3.0104; shall be a member of the Leadership Team without Vote; and shall have responsibility to speak on behalf of the Presbytery.
- 2.04 The Vice Moderator of Presbytery shall be elected for a two (2) year term, without renewal, concurrent with the Moderator of Presbytery. In the absence or at the request of the Moderator of Presbytery, the Vice Moderator may discharge any or all of the functions of the Moderator.
- 2.05 The Chair of the Leadership Team shall be elected for a three (3) year term, without renewal, and shall have authority necessary for preserving order and for conducting efficiently the business of the Leadership Team.

- 2.06 The Vice Chair of the Leadership Team shall be elected for a three (3) year term, without renewal, concurrent with the Chair. In the absence or at the request of the Chair of the Leadership Team, the Vice-Chair may carry-out any or all of the functions of the Chair of the Leadership Team.
- 2.07 The Stated Clerk shall be employed full-time (exempt) and elected for a five (5) year term; having the responsibilities outlined in G-3.0104; as well as serving as Communicator, creating, updating and posting to the Presbytery's Website and/or future means of communications, accountable to the Leadership Team and Presbytery. The Stated Clerk shall serve as parliamentarian and communicator within the Presbytery and to other Councils. In case of an absence of the Stated Clerk, the Stated Clerk may appoint a Teaching Elder or Ruling Elder within the Presbytery to serve as Acting Clerk. The Stated Clerk is directly accountable to the Leadership Team through the Chairperson of the Leadership Team.
- 2.08 The Treasurer shall be elected for a three (3) year term and shall have the responsibility for all monies collected and distributed by the Presbytery as defined by the Manual of Operations.
- 2.09 The Bookkeeper shall continue to be shared with neighboring Presbyteries according to the existing contract.
- 2.10 The CRE Dean is as defined by the CRE Manual.

SR 3 – Meetings of the Presbytery

- 3.01 Stated meetings of the Presbytery are specified in Article V of the Bylaws.
- 3.02 Special meetings of the Presbytery are called in accordance with Article V of the Bylaws. Should the Moderator be unable to act, the Stated Clerk shall, under the same conditions, issue the call. 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.
- 3.03 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.

SR 4 – Electronic meetings and votes

- 4.01 Meetings of the Leadership Team, Work Groups, Committees, and Commissions may be conducted by electronic means, providing there is opportunity for simultaneous aural communication and the usual standards for providing notice of the meeting are followed.

Consensus reached through the exchange of information by email (or other electronic means) shall be considered advisory until the next regular meeting of the group, when it shall be confirmed or rejected by vote. Other provisions for electronic (virtual) meetings and votes shall be governed by applicable laws and regulations of the State of New York.

SR 5 – Commissioned Ruling Elder Program

- 5.01 The Presbytery shall have and maintain a Commissioned Ruling Elder Manual.
- 5.02 The CRE program shall be directed by a Dean, as described in the above-mentioned Manual.

SR 6 – Preparation for Ministry and Examination of Candidates

- 6.01 As set forth in G-2.06 the Presbytery, through the Leadership Team, has responsibility for the covenant relationship with those preparing to become Teaching Elders, their Sessions and congregations.
- 6.02 Examination of Candidates for Ordination shall be done by the Presbytery at one of the two regular Presbytery meetings annually.

SR 7 – Calling, Validating Ministries, Moderators of Session

- 7.01 As set forth in G-3.0303, the Leadership Team has specific authority and responsibilities (G-3.0303a through f) for relationship with Teaching Elders and Sessions. The Leadership Team shall have authority for fulfilling these functions and/or delegating these responsibilities to an ad hoc group as needed, reporting these actions to the Presbytery in a timely manner.
- 7.02 Routine business normally approved by the Leadership Team in this area includes:
 - 7.0201 Appointing Moderators for Churches without an Installed Pastor
 - 7.0202 Approving and Presenting Calls for Ministry
 - 7.0203 Transferring Membership of Clergy to other Presbyteries and between Denominations
 - 7.0204 Dissolving Pastoral Relationships in cases where pastor and congregation concur
 - 7.0205 Granting Permission to Labor outside the geographic Bounds of the Presbytery
 - 7.0206 Granting Validation of Ministries outside the Parish
 - 7.0207 Approving Ministerial and Certified Personnel Compensations and Benefits,
- 7.03 The Leadership Team will provide for:
 - 7.0301 Encouraging Teaching elders to engage in Continuing Education
 - 7.0302 Encouraging Sessions to support the Certification processes for other-than Teaching Elders

- 7.0304 Encouraging all Clergy and Congregations to participate in the Benefits Plan of the PCUSA
 - 7.0305 Ministering to Widows of Clergy
 - 7.0306 Administer the Presbytery's Salary Supplement Fund
 - 7.0307 Assist and Counsel Retired Clergy regarding necessary changes due to Retirement.
- 7.04 Business needing to be brought before the Presbytery for action includes annually establishing Minimum Terms of Call and Salaries for the Teaching Elders and Certified Persons (G-3.0303c)
- 7.05 Business needing to be delegated through the Committee on Ministry Work Group includes:
- 7.0501 Developing Strategy for the Mission of each Church within the Presbytery (G-3.0303a)
 - 7.0502 Controlling location of congregations, congregations desiring to move, divide, dissolve or be dismissed (G-3.0303b)
 - 7.0503 Counseling Sessions concerning reported difficulties within a congregation (G-3.0303d)
 - 7.0504 Assuming original jurisdiction when a Session cannot exercise its authority (G-3.0303e)
 - 7.0505 In cooperation with the congregation and those exercising the Trustee function within the Leadership Team acting upon requests for permission regarding property (G-3.0303f) Whenever a member congregation of the Presbytery requests permission to sell or otherwise encumber property entrusted to them, that congregation shall specify the disposition of any funds realized from the sale. This specification shall be based on the Great Ends of the Church (F-1.0304).
 - 7.0506 Guiding Sessions/Councils through the Pastoral Search Process
 - 7.0507 Guiding Congregations through Discernment of Transitions
 - 7.0508 Guiding Sessions in conversations with other Denominations
 - 7.0509 Any Question of Ministerial Misconduct
 - 7.0510 Guiding Congregations through Training of Commissioned Ruling Elders, Educators, Business Administrators.
 - 7.0511 Annually, the Leadership Team shall appoint opportunities for the Sessions of local churches to have their Minutes and Rolls reviewed.
- 7.06 No pastoral relationship may be established, changed or dissolved without the approval of the Presbytery (G-2.0502). The Presbytery shall review annually the work of all teaching elders engaged in validated ministries outside the congregation. Initiation of Annual Validation Reporting shall be the responsibility of the Teaching Elder seeking validation (G-2.0508) and shall occur prior to the Fall meeting of Presbytery each year.
- 7.07 Response Coordination Team and Conflict Resolution Team shall continue as previously created by the Leadership Team (and its predecessor Council).

SR 8 – Finance and Property

- 8.01 As set forth in G-3.0113, the Leadership Team shall be led by a member knowledgeable in finance to prepare, adopt, report and review on a budget in the following way:
- 8.0101 The Leadership Team shall receive budgetary requests from all Standing and Ad Hoc committees and work groups.
 - 8.0102 The Leadership Team shall enter into dialogue with a representative from each group requesting funds.
 - 8.0103 The Leadership Team shall prepare a unified budget for the following year, based on stated priorities of the Presbytery and available financial resources.
 - 8.0104 In presenting the budget, the Leadership Team shall communicate to the Presbytery all requests for funding, along with its recommendation concerning the advisability of approving each request and the amount and timing of funding if approved.
 - 8.0105 Following the presentation of the annual budget by the Leadership Team, and a full opportunity to discuss the budget, the Presbytery shall be responsible to approve the final budget.
 - 8.0106 Realizing that needs emerge throughout the year in unexpected areas or ways, a certain amount of budgetary flexibility is required to address changes that might be needed. Therefore, the Leadership Team may make changes it deems necessary within the constraints of the overall budget total approved by the Presbytery for the budget. If proposed changes exceed the budget total that was approved, those changes may only be made by approval of the Presbytery itself.
- 8.02 The Leadership Team shall submit financial reports and per capita and mission giving reports quarterly to every local Church and Minister/CRE/CE/BA.
- 8.03 The Leadership Team shall have a full financial review as delineated in G-3.0113.
- 8.04 As set forth in G-4.01, the Leadership Team, serving as Trustees of the Presbytery, has specific authority and responsibilities as delineated in G-4.0101 and G-4.02. The Leadership Team shall be led by a member knowledgeable in Finance and by the Treasurer of the Presbytery to carry out these responsibilities in the following way:
- 8.0401 The Treasurer of Presbytery shall be the Treasurer of the Leadership Team ex-officio, without vote.
 - 8.0402 The Leadership Team shall administer the Presbytery's Investments.
 - 8.0403 The Leadership Team shall have full authority and discretion to endorse funding applications to GA & Synod, etc.
 - 8.0404 The Leadership Team shall have charge over all legal matters of the Presbytery, funded as needed by the Investments.
 - 8.0405 The Leadership Team shall provide appropriate liability insurance coverage for the Presbytery, its officers, and its staff.
- 8.05 Rather than the Institution of a Presbytery collecting and distributing funds to enable struggling congregations, individual congregations shall be encouraged to partner in support of growing and resurrecting healthy congregations.

SR 9 – Leadership Development

- 9.01 Taking advantage of ever-developing forms of communication, the Presbytery shall take advantage of webinars, discussion groups and distance learning opportunities.
- 9.02 The Presbytery personnel (All Teaching Elders, CREs, Cert. C.E.s, Cert B.A.s) are encouraged to gather in small groups for book discussion, sharing leadership skills, sharing common interests and concerns.
- 9.03 The Teaching and Ruling Elders and all Certified Personnel are strongly encouraged to meet together at least annually for debate of issues of contemporary concern to the church in joint assembly or separately.
- 9.04 Any member of Presbytery may invite others to join in these learning opportunities and/or debates. All shall be provided with expectation of transparency and openness, accessibility and emphasis on ministry and witness.
- 9.05 In the absence of others creating Leadership Development opportunities, the Leadership Team shall make recommendations to the body of the Presbytery.

SR 10 – Record Keeping, Overtures, Minutes Review

- 10.01 Annually, the Leadership Team shall appoint opportunities for the Sessions of local churches to have their Minutes and Rolls reviewed.
- 10.02 In preparation for the first meeting of the Calendar year in alternate years, the Stated Clerk/ Communicator shall make available to every local Church, Teaching Elder, Commissioned Ruling Elder meeting, for action of ratification by the Presbytery.

SR 11 – Committee on Representation

- 11.01 The Committee on Representation shall consist of three (3) members of the Leadership Team, appointed annually.
- 11.02 This committee shall fulfill the functions as defined in G-3.0103

SR 12 – Nominating Committee

- 12.01 The Nominating Committee shall present all nominations to the Presbytery at its annual meeting in May. The nominations shall include:
 - 12.0101 Officers: Moderator of Presbytery, Vice-Moderator of Presbytery, Chair of

- Leadership Team, Vice Chair of Leadership Team, Treasurer and Stated Clerk
 - 12.0102 Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission, except as otherwise provided in the standing rules
 - 12.0103 Members of the Leadership Team
 - 12.0104 Representatives to Synod Nominating Committee
 - 12.0105 Representatives to inter-presbytery, inter-denominational agencies.
 - 12.0106 Teaching and ruling elder commissioners, and alternates, to the next General Assembly
 - 12.0107 Teaching and ruling elder commissioners, and alternates, to the Synod of the Northeast (3-year term)
 - 12.0108 Young Adult Advisory Delegates to both General Assembly and the Synod Assembly
- 12.02 Vacancies
- 12.0201 If a vacancy is to be filled on a standing committee (Nominating, Record Keeping/Overtures, Representation, and PJC), Leadership Team has the authority to fill that vacancy for the remainder of that year without the vote of Presbytery.
 - 12.0202 If a vacancy is to be filled on The Leadership Team or an Officer, the matter shall be brought before a Regular Stated meeting of Presbytery or a Special meeting of the Presbytery shall be called.

SR 13 – Permanent Judicial Commission

- 13.01 Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission shall be elected according to the provisions of Article VII of the Bylaws.
- 13.02 This Commission shall have powers and responsibilities and shall conduct its proceedings as prescribed by the *Book of Order*.

SR 14 – Ad Hoc Work Groups

- 14.01 The Leadership Team may establish ad hoc work groups as needed.
- 14.02 Human Resources Work Group
 - 14.0201 Review and assess staffing needs to prepare information for the budget.
 - 14.0202 Provide for helpful supervision and update policies
 - 14.0203 Conduct an annual performance review of the Stated Clerk/Communicator and report the results to the Leadership Team.
- 14.03 Camping Ministry
 - 14.0301 Review and assess Presbytery’s involvement in camping ministry.
 - 14.0302 Work closely with the staff and programs of Vanderkamp.

SR 15 – Policies and Addenda

- 15.01 As required by G-3.0106 of the *Book of Order*, the Presbytery shall develop and maintain a Manual of Administrative Operations “that will specify the form and guide the work of mission in that council.”
- 15.02 The following former polices shall be used for background and understanding, but shall no longer be BINDING.
- 15.0201 STANDING RULES as amended 22 January 2011
 - 15.0202 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Manual of Administrative Operation – Replaced by G-6.050
 - 15.0203 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Preparation of the Presbytery Mission and Operating Budget – G-6.052
 - 15.0204 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Investment Policy Guidelines covered by GA, Audit covered by G-6.053
 - 15.0205 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Endowment Fund Policy – G.6.054c
 - 15.0206 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Per Capita Policy
 - 15.0207 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Mileage Reimbursement Policy – Redundant with IRS & Clergy Minimums
 - 15.0208 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Policy for the Utilization of Non-Budgeted Resources (Church Closure handled case by case according to Administrative Commission Actions)
 - 15.0209 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Offerings at Ordination & Installation Services – Decided by Admin Commiss.
 - 15.0210 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Congregational Vitality Fund – Merge into General Endowment
 - 15.0211 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Policy on Manse Sale – FOG & Administrative Commission
 - 15.0212 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Honorarium Policy – No Longer Needed
 - 15.0213 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Process for Reviewing Grant Applications – No Longer Needed
 - 15.0214 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Mission & Ministry Team Manual – No Longer Needed
- 15.03 The following former policies shall be changed:
- 15.0301 BOARD OF TRUSTEES Presbytery Funds Restricted By Presbytery Action. There is confusion of funds here.
- 15.04 The following Funds shall be merged into General Endowment:
- 15.0401 New Initiatives Funds
 - 15.0402 New Church development/Redevelopment Fund
 - 15.0403 Church Building Loan Fund
 - 15.0404 Endowment Fund
 - 15.0405 Judicial Disciplinary Fund
 - 15.0406 Salary Supplement Fund

- 15.0407 Executive's Discretionary Fund.
- 15.05 While the following funds shall be Designated Funds as defined by the IRS for a Designated Purpose and Regularly to be applied to an anticipated expenditure, as administered by the Leadership Team:
 - 15.0501 Special Offerings & Denominational Offerings: Peacemaking, Christmas Joy, Lent, OGHS
 - 15.0502 Seminary Fund
 - 15.0503 Operating Fund
 - 15.0504 Benevolent Care Grant Fund
 - 15.0505 Care Fund
 - 15.0506 Fay Giddings Funds
 - 15.0507 Student Training and Grants
 - 15.0508 Youth Triennium
 - 15.0509 Camperships
- 15.06 However, the following changes shall be implemented:
 - 15.0601 Fay Giddings Fund can be granted a Maximum of Three times per person.
 - 15.0602 Vanderkamp is to be considered a separate Foundation. While Campership (scholarships) may be granted each year, funding of the Camp shall be done independently by the Camp Foundation Board
- 15.07 The Following Policies shall be Retained
 - 15.0701 COM Continuing Membership & Validation of Ministry (However, "Process for Validation & Review" is deleted as Replaced by G-6.041)
 - 15.0702 COM Procedure for Receiving Minister Members
 - 15.0703 COM Policy for Installations & Ordinations
 - 15.0704 COM Procedure for Dismissing Minister Members
 - 15.0705 COM Termination Policy
 - 15.0706 COM Ministerial Guidelines for Leaving A Parish
 - 15.0707 COM Policy Statement & Procedures on Ministerial Misconduct
 - 15.0708 COM Ministerial Background Investigation Consent
 - 15.0709 COM Commissioned Lay Pastor Manual
- 15.08 The following Policies shall be invalidated but retained for historic reference:
 - 15.0801 COM Study Leave Guidelines
 - 15.0802 COM Family Leave Policy
 - 15.0803 COM Sabbatical leave Policy & Guidelines
 - 15.0804 COM Candidate Indebtedness Policy
 - 15.0805 COM Board of Pensions Liaison
- 15.09 The following Policies shall be invalidated but retained for historic reference:
 - 15.0901 PERSONNEL Job Description for Transitional Presbyter after 2012
 - 15.0902 PERSONNEL Personnel Policies & Practices – To be Replaced by Single Employee Job Description
 - 15.0903 PERSONNEL Employment of Temp, Non-Exempt Part-Time

15.0904 PERSONNEL Position Description: Administrative & Technical Assistant
15.0905 SELF-DEVELOPMENT OF PEOPLE Domestic Application

15.10 PERSONNEL Position description: Stated Clerk is replaced by G-4.030

SR 16 – Amending and/or suspending the Standing Rules

- 16.01 These Standing Rules, insofar as they are not part of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) or the Bylaws of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse, may be suspended at any particular meeting (although not for future meetings) of the Presbytery by a majority vote of the members present and voting.
- 16.02 Standing Rules may be amended by a majority vote of the Presbytery at any properly called meeting.

Teaching Elder Member Classifications – 12/31/2014

The membership classifications for those Teaching Elders on the roll of Presbytery:

Installed Pastoral relationships: (20)

Garrett Anderson (101)
Mary Anderson (101)
Lorrie Day Anson (101)
Mario Bolivar (103)
Lorrie Cooney (191)
Karen Dimon (101)
Beth DuBois (101)
Linda Even (101)
Robert French (101)
Karen Green (101)
Stuart Hayes (101)
Yong Ju Jee (101)
Robert Langston (101)
Craig Lindsey (101)
Roger Martin (101)
Tracie Martin (101)
Andrew McTyre (101)
Shawn Reyburn (101)
Pete Shidemantle (101)
Eileen Winter (101)

Specialized Ministries or Temporary Supply relationships: (11)

Brigid Boyle (108 at Park Central)
Jane Dasher (701 at Golisano Children's Hospital, Syracuse)
Paul Doriani (105 at Chittenango)
Kathleen Griffin (644, Buenos Aires, Argentina)
Dwain Lee (105 at Westminster, Auburn)
Sarah Speed McTyre (108 at Park Central)
Steve Plank (303)
Nick Preuninger (501 at Immanuel United Meth. Ch., Camillus)
Harold "Sandy" Sanderson (108 at Taunton)
Debra Thomas (105 at Westernville PC, Rome)
Kathleen Waters (105 at N. Presbyterian Church, Elmira)

Members-at-large (797): (6)

Jon Chapman (Dover, DE)
Clarice Martin
Daniel McCollister
Janet Newman
Harvey Sindima
Saunda Thomas

Retired members (299): (27)

Harold Abram
Susan Alloway
Peter Anderson
Earl Arnold
Ebbe Arvidson (Bradenton, FL)
Lawrence Black
Donald Byers
George Demass
Dennis Doerr
Thomas Drake
Robert Godbout
Robert Herst
James Hughes
Edwin Enhong Kang
Gerald Platz
Roger Pohl (also 109 at Baldwinsville:First)
Howard Rose
Jerald Shave
Richard Smith
Virginia Smith (also 108 at First Pres., Marcellus)
Lester Staton (Richmond, VA)
Steve Thomas
Edgar Thornburg (also 109 at N. Syracuse:Northminster)
Alcides Torres
Eugene Turner
Philip Windsor
Allen Wollenberg

Inactive Members (795): (0)

(G-2.0508: "A teaching elder whom the presbytery determines no longer to be engaged in a validated ministry (G-2.0503a) or to fulfill the criteria for membership-at-large (G-2.0503b), and who is not honorably retired (G-2.0503c), shall not have voice or vote in meetings of the presbytery, except when the matter under consideration pertains to his or her relationship to the presbytery. Names of such persons shall be reported annually to the presbytery by the stated clerk. If after three years the teaching elder does not meet the criteria for validated ministry or membership-at-large, the presbytery may delete that person's name from the roll of membership and, upon request of a session, dismiss that person to a congregation."

64 teaching elder members of the Presbytery as of December 31, 2014

Temporary members of Presbytery, as of 12/31/2014: (8)

Gail Banks (107 at Amboy Belle Isle)
Donna Chapman (107 at Whitelaw)
Mark Harrison (151 at Jamesville:Community, UMC)

Caroline Simmons (151 at E. Syracuse:Collamer United, UMC)
Patricia Simmons (151 at Syracuse:West., RCA)
David Nethercott (151 at Fulton:First United, ABC)
Neil Strong (151 at Port Byron:Federated, ABC)
Barbara Wright (151 at Scipioville:First, UCC)

			<u>Terms of Call Report - 2015</u>				
<u>Name</u>	<u>Cash Salary</u>	<u>Housing/Manse</u>	<u>Deferred comp.</u>	<u>SECA > 50%</u>	<u>Other</u>	<u>EFFECTIVE SALARY</u>	
Anderson, Garrett	\$45,675.00	\$13,853.00	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$60,028.00	
Bolivar, Mario	\$25,900.00	\$21,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,500.00	
DuBois, Beth	\$36,089.00	\$10,827.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$46,916.00	
Lindsey, Craig	\$38,619.00	\$46,162.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$84,781.00	
Martin, Tracie	\$36,196.00	\$18,027.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$54,223.00	
McTyre, J Andrew	\$19,803.00	\$30,000.00	\$22,800.00	\$0.00	\$3,524.00	\$76,127.00	
Nethercott, David	\$30,050.00	\$17,684.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$47,734.00	
Plank, Steve	\$34,025.00	\$29,000.00	\$3,600.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$66,625.00	
Shidemantle, Peter	\$48,637.00	\$15,281.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,300.00	\$66,218.00	

<u>Name</u>	<u>BoP</u>	<u>SECA < 50%</u>	<u>Add'l</u>	<u>Travel</u>	<u>Cont. Ed.</u>	<u>Professional</u>	<u>Other reimb</u>	<u>Review?</u>
Anderson, Garrett	full				\$900.00	\$1,700.00	\$2,000.00	Y
Bolivar, Mario	full			\$4,800.00	\$900.00	\$500.00	\$1,800.00	
DuBois, Beth	full	\$3,598.00		\$2,000.00	\$900.00	\$2,300.00	\$0.00	Y
Lindsey, Craig	full			\$4,820.00	\$1,203.00	\$500.00	\$1,800.00	Y
Martin, Tracie								Y
McTyre, J Andrew	full			\$1,200.00	\$900.00	\$600.00		Y
Nethercott, David	full				\$100.00	\$2,700.00	\$850.00	Y
Plank, Steve	full	\$5,097.00		\$2,400.00	\$1,200.00	\$2,400.00		Y
Shidemantle, Peter	full	\$5,066.00		\$1,000.00	\$1,200.00	\$850.00		Y

Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery Approved 2016 Budget

2016
Approved

MEMBERS

4539

INCOME

Per Capita

\$ 35.22

4539 Members@ \$35.22

\$ 159,864

LESS: Reserve for unpaid Per Capita

\$ (3,197)

Total Per Capita Income

\$ 156,666

Other Income

5% of Undesignated Funds from Investments

\$ 27,289

TOTAL INCOME

\$ 183,956

EXPENSES

Per Capita

GA

\$ 32,318

Synod

\$ 18,156

Total Per Capita Expense

\$ 50,474

Program

Committee on Ministry

\$ 900

Committee Prep. of Ministry

\$ 650

Early Ministries Institute -Synod

\$ 450

Leadership Team

\$ 1,000

Leadership Development

\$ 500

Mileage Non-staff

\$ 200

Presbytery Meetings

\$ 500

Total Program Expenses

\$ 4,200

Administrative

Rent(Storage at Synod Office)

\$ 1,200

Liability Insurance

\$ 2,145

Telephone

\$ 1,200

Website /Internet Access

\$ 2,500

Equipment /Maintenance and Repairs

\$ 500

Supplies

\$ 500

PO Box rental

\$ 400

Postage

\$ 350

Audit - External

\$ 4,750

Bookkeeping assistance	\$ 1,000
Contract Services Bookkeeper	\$ 8,000
Payroll Service	\$ 660
Unbudgeted Items/ Misc. Expense	\$ 695
Total Administrative	\$ 23,900

Human Resources

Stated Clerk/Communicator	
Salary/Housing	\$ 67,890
Social Security Offset	\$ 5,194
Benefits	\$ 25,685
Continuing Education	\$ 1,200
Auto Travel Allowance	\$ 2,400
Professional Expenses	\$ 2,400
Workman's Comp	\$ 547
Total Human Resources	\$ 105,316

TOTAL EXPENSES \$ 183,890

Total Budget \$ 66

PROPOSED CAYUGA-SYRACUSE OVERTURE ON KOREAN WAR KILLING OF CIVILIANS (October 2015)

On Acknowledging and Reconciling for Killing Korean Civilians in July 1950.

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse respectfully overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to

- 1) Acknowledge that American troops knowingly killed at least 150 Korean civilians (and probably between 250 and 300, mostly women and children) on July 26 – 29, 1950 near the village of No Gun Ri and offer apology and condolences to the approximately 40 surviving victims;**
- 2) Instruct the Stated Clerk to communicate to the President of the United States and to members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives, requesting them to acknowledge the responsibility of the United States military for the deaths of those Korean civilians, to officially apologize for the actions of United States troops at No Gun Ri, and to provide appropriate compensation to the surviving victims and to the families of those killed or wounded in the No Gun Ri incident;**
- 3) Instruct the Mission Agency to arrange a meeting between United States soldiers who were present at No Gun Ri and Korean survivors of the incident there, for the purpose of resolving the long pent-up resentments and feelings of guilt, and moving toward true forgiveness and reconciliation;**
- 4) Recommend to John Knox Press / Geneva Press that they publish an English translation of the true-story novel *Do You Know Our Pain?* written by the late Mr. Eun-yong Chung, whose two infant children were killed at No Gun Ri and whose wife was severely wounded there;**
- 5) Establish a task force within the Mission Agency consisting of at least two staff persons from the World Mission Office and two staff persons from the Office of Compassion, Peace and Justice, charged to research the events at No Gun Ri and coordinate the response of the PCUSA as outlined in this overture;**
- 6) Transmit this overture and rationale, containing information about the events in Korea in**

1950, to the churches and presbyteries of the PCUSA and recommend study of materials including *Do You Know Our Pain?* and the book *The Bridge at No Gun Ri* by Charles J. Hanley, Sang-hun Choe and Martha Mendoza, AP journalists whose reporting of the incident won the Pulitzer Prize in 2000; and

7) Instruct the Mission Agency to consult with the PCUSA's mission partners in South Korea, including the Presbyterian Church in Korea and the Presbyterian Church in the Republic of Korea, about the feasibility of jointly commissioning and funding the construction of a memorial church on the grounds of or nearby the No Gun Ri Peace Park in South Korea.

RATIONALE

On June 25, 1950, North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel and invaded South Korea in force, overwhelming the South Korean defenders. As the North Koreans surged south, the United States sent occupation troops from Japan to try to slow or halt their advance. North Korean pressure was too strong, and as American and South Korean soldiers retreated south, thousands of civilian refugees trekked south to escape the fighting.

By July 23, 1950, five hundred to six hundred refugees were hiding in the mountains near the village of Imge-ri, behind American lines a little over 100 miles from the 38th parallel. In the evening of July 25, American troops entered the village of Imgye-ri and forcibly moved the refugees, saying they would lead them into a safe zone. Walking with what belongings they could carry, they spent the next night in the open near a river.

Early in the morning of July 26, the American soldiers who had guarded the refugees at night retreated to the south, leaving the refugees alone. The refugees moved along a highway, looking for freedom and safety, toward the south where American troops had positioned their defense line. Around noon the column of refugees were stopped by American soldiers, who ordered them to go up on an elevated railroad and searched their bags and bodies. No weapons were found. As they continued along the railroad, a US reconnaissance plane circled over their heads of refugees, and not long after, American planes dropped bombs and strafed the refugees resting on the railroad. Over a hundred were killed.

Seeking safety, the surviving refugees hid inside the No Gun Ri twin tunnels under the elevated railroad. For 3 nights and 4 days, soldiers of the 7th Cavalry Regiment, US First Cavalry Division,

who had dug in on the hills at both ends of the tunnel, fired into the tunnels with rifles and machine guns. Many of the men and older boys escaped under cover of darkness, believing that the Americans would not fire on women and children. By the time the Americans retreated further south, over a hundred civilians lay dead in the tunnels, three quarters of them women, children, or elderly. An official Korean investigation 50 years later identified 150 individuals who had been killed in the tunnels, 13 missing, and 55 wounded, some of whom later died of their wounds. The true number is likely much higher, probably 250 to 300 or more.

After the Korean War ended with the armistice in mid-1953, compensation was offered to civilians who had suffered losses from the actions of South Korean and American forces. Survivors of the No Gun Ri applied for compensation, but were told that their application was too late and that there was no evidence that anything had occurred at No Gun Ri. The repressive government in power in South Korea at that time deterred the survivors from pressing their claim further.

Mr. Eun-yong Chung, a lawyer whose two infant children had been killed at No Gun Ri, and his wife seriously wounded, began to document the event, collecting newspaper reports, searching libraries, and reviewing official records from that time. Beginning in 1960, he sent petition letters to the US Government, Senate, and House of Representatives about 20 times, asking for an investigation of the attack, official apology, and compensation. The U.S. Army at first denied that the 7th Cavalry Regiment had been positioned at No Gun Ri. When Mr. Chung produced military documents showing that they were there, the Army insisted that there was no evidence of their involvement in the incident. For decades, Mr. Chung was turned away, but he continued to gather documentary evidence and to interview other survivors. He formed an Association for Bereaved Families of No Gun Ri Victims.

While Korea was ruled by a series of military governments, it was dangerous to make claims about atrocities committed during the Korean War. Mr. Chung turned to historical fiction, the only way to publish safely about wartime events that were less than heroic and honorable. His first novel was published in 1977. In 1994, after doing additional research, he published a full-length novel on the No Gun Ri Incident, "Do You Know Our Pain?" After this, his son Dr. Koo-do Chung researched No Gun Ri-related documents in the US National Archives and published papers on the No Gun Ri Incident in terms of history and international law. He discovered many documents that confirmed events and commands that impinged on the No Gun Ri incident, but the operational log of the 7th Cavalry Regiment for July 1950 was unaccountably missing from the Archives.

In 1998, a Korean reporter for the Associated Press heard of Mr. Chung's work and became interested in the difficult struggles of the victims of No Gun Ri. He and two AP colleagues spent a year reviewing the documentation, interviewing victims, and locating surviving American soldiers who had been at No Gun Ri that July. They published an in-depth investigative article reporting "the truth of the No Gun Ri Incident" in late September 1999. Because of this publication, the No Gun Ri Incident was widely known all over the world, and public indignation boiled over in South Korea and overseas. The journalists of the AP who investigated and reported the No Gun Ri Incident received the Pulitzer Prize in 2000, and ten more prizes later.

Both the Korean and U.S. governments began an official investigation on the No Gun Ri Incident in October 1999. At last, January 2001, the U.S. government acknowledged the existence of the No Gun Ri Incident, which they had denied all along. Then President Clinton issued a statement expressing "deep regret." But in spite of evidence to the contrary, the U.S. investigation claimed that no orders were given to shoot civilian refugees, so their deaths were just unfortunate collateral damage during the conduct of war. Neither apology nor compensation to the victims has ever been offered.

The investigation by Korean officials came to different conclusions. They located several significant documents in the U.S. Archives that had been reviewed by the American investigators but not included in their report. Among many such unreported documents was a communication from the U.S. ambassador to South Korea at the time advising the State Department in Washington that the U.S. Army had established a policy of firing on approaching refugee groups, out of fear they might harbor enemy infiltrators. Despite repeated calls for the U. S. to re-open its investigation, no action has been taken. The Korean government declined to press the issue, for fear of damaging U.S. - Korearelations.

On February 9, 2004, the South Korean National Assembly adopted a Special Act on the Review and Restoration of Honor for the No Gun Ri Victims. Among its provisions was the establishment of the No Gun Ri Peace Park at the site of the tunnels as a memorial, museum, and peace education center. Dr. Koo-Do Chung, son of the long-time researcher, is the current director of the Peace Park.

In 2014, an adult delegation and a youth delegation commissioned by the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse as part of its mission partnership with Pyongyang Presbytery in South Korea visited the No Gun Ri Peace Park and learned about the terrible events there in July 1950. Moved by their experience

there, and committed to promoting peace and preventing future human rights violations, they propose this overture for the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse to present to the 222nd General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Misconduct like this by American troops that results in avoidable injury and death of civilians casts a dark shadow of resentment and distrust of American intentions and actions, in spite of proclamation that the United States is militarily involved in other countries to protect the welfare and freedom of the people there. If the tragic events at No Gun Ri had come to the attention of U. S. authorities and been taken seriously at the time, or even within a few years after the armistice ending the Korean War, changes in military doctrine and training could have been put in place that would have prevented similar massacres that took place later, in Viet Nam and elsewhere.

In the aftermath of World War II, the United States extended humanitarian relief and recovery assistance to peoples whose lives had been disrupted by the war in both allied countries and enemy nations, earning a reputation for promoting peace and championing human rights. Irresponsible acts of violence against civilians, like the one at No Gun Ri and others that followed, belie that reputation and suggest instead that the United States engages in terrorist tactics. As this reputation has grown, it has spawned resentment and hatred of Americans and has fostered terrorist actions against the United States and its citizens. Taking responsibility for the massacre at No Gun Ri and offering restitution to its victims and their families will be a significant step toward restoring the good reputation of our country.

The rate of suicides among U.S. soldiers returning from combat in the Korea War was considerably higher than in World War II. When soldiers find themselves killing civilians, either inadvertently or under orders, as at No Gun Ri, they are apparently more likely to suffer from PTSD, experiencing long-lasting feelings of guilt and shame that drive many to suicide. Had military doctrine and training been changed in the aftermath of the No Gun Ri incident to reduce civilian deaths, it is likely that a considerable amount of the suffering experienced by veterans of later conflicts could have been avoided.

Among the Korean survivors and others acquainted with the terrible event at No Gun Ri, the experience of unmerited injury and unrequited suffering has created what Koreans call *han*, a condition of hopeless resentment and depression that is very injurious to their quality of life. Even at this late

date, an acknowledgement of wrongdoing, sincere apology, and appropriate compensation (what theologians call “repentance”) can provide welcome relief to those people whose lives were shattered by what Americans did at No Gun Ri.

This overture offers an opportunity for the Presbyterian Church U.S.A. to unveil the violence that the United States has often inflicted on the population of our ostensible allies, to open the way for changes in the conduct of U.S. military operations in the future, and to undertake steps toward reconciliation between American veterans and civilian casualties in South Korea.