

**MINUTES OF THE STATED MEETING OF  
THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE  
21 JANUARY 2012  
AT THE FIRST UNITED CHURCH  
BALDWINSVILLE, NEW YORK**

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a stated meeting at the First United Church, Baldwinsville, New York on Saturday, January 21, 2012.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35am with prayer by the Rev. Steve Thomas.

A quorum was confirmed by the Acting Stated Clerk, the Rev. Roger Martin. The names of visitors were read and it was moved/seconded/passed to approve the list of visitors.

Nancy Lomberk was introduced as the Recording Secretary for this meeting. The Rev. Dr. Roger Martin was introduced as the Presbytery's Acting Stated Clerk.

The Moderator, on behalf of the Presbytery, offered thanks to the First United Presbyterian Church of Baldwinsville for hosting the meeting. The Rev. Stuart Hayes, pastor at First Presbyterian Church-Baldwinsville was introduced. Rev. Hayes welcomed all to the church and informed them that 2012 is the Bicentennial of the church. He also shared about arrangements and accommodations.

The Moderator noted that New Business will be accepted up to 1 hour before the close of presbytery and amendments of motions must be in writing.

First time visitors and new elders at this meeting are Elder Larry Weiss from Skaneateles and Julie Van Waltenberg from Whitelaw.

Attendance was taken by signing the roll, as follows:

**Minister Members of Presbytery:** Garrett Anderson, Earl Arnold, Karen Dimon, Dennis Doerr, Linda Even, Robert French, Karen Green, William Grossman, Stuart Hayes, Betty Jones, Craig Lindsey, Roger Martin, Tracie Martin, David Nethercott, Janet Newman, Gerald Platz, Elizabeth Quick, Shawn Reyburn, Marianne Rhebergen, Howard Rose, Harold Sanderson, Jerald Shave, Peter Shidemantle, Caroline Simmons, Patricia Simmons, Steven Thomas, Kathleen Waters, Barbara Wright.

**Commissioned Lay Pastors:** Donna Chapman

**Elders Elected by Session:** Patricia Milliman (Amboy Belle Isle), Jean Harshaw (Baldwinsville), Linda Smith (Cazenovia), Joan O'Donnell (East Syracuse), Beth Krauss (Fayetteville), Ed Fauler (Liverpool), Susan Sillman-Smith (Mexico), Clayton Koontz (Northminster), Leslie King (Oswego), Mary Browne, (Robinson Memorial), Jeanne Herst (Scipioville), Dave Graham (Skaneateles), Lawrence Weiss (Skaneateles), Nita Cleland (First Presbyterian Church United, Syracuse), Bill Smith (Weedsport), Camille Bach (Whitelaw).

**Elders Appointed by Council:** Neil Rotach (King Ferry), Lynda Fauler (Liverpool), Roberta Richardson (Northminster).

**Certified/Employed Christian Educators:** Nancy Wind (First Presbyterian Church United).

**Administrative Personnel Association:** Donna Chapman (counted above as a Minister Member).

**Presbytery approved the following minister and elders as corresponding members (with voice):**

Robert Armstrong (Amboy Belle Isle), Leona Hardy (Amboy Belle Isle), Esther Rounds (Baldwinsville), Carola Shave (First Presbyterian Church United, Syr.), (Leisa Fisher (First Presbyterian Church United, Syr.), Linda Stewart (Liverpool), Ruth Haase (Northminster), William Haase (Northminster), Clayton Koontz (Northminster), James Davis (Vanderkamp).

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

**Visitors:** Rich Newman (First PC Auburn), Victor Jenkins (Baldwinsville), Karen Wolff (South Valley) Bob Wind (First United PC, Syracuse).

**Inquirers/Candidates:** None.

**Attendance Summary:** There were Twenty-seven teaching elders, Fifth-teen ruling elder commissioners, Two ruling elder Council members, One Christian Educators, Eleven Corresponding Members, and Four Visitors. Twelve of our thirty-nine congregations had neither an elder or minister present.

**Ministers absent without excuse from meeting:** Susan Alloway, Mary Anderson, Peter Anderson, Lorrie Day Anson, Robert Herst, Edwin Kang, Robert Langston, Clarice Martin, Harvey Sindima, Neil Strong, Philip Windsor, and Eileen Winter.

**Churches not represented by an elder commissioner:** First, Auburn; Westminster, Auburn; Aurora; Chittenango; Collamer; Pebble Hill, Dewitt; Fulton; Hannibal; Lafayette; Marcellus; Morrisville; Onondaga Hill; Otisco; Port Byron; Scipioville; Sennett; Elmwood, Syracuse; Korean, Syracuse; Park Central; South/Valley, Syracuse; Westminster, Syracuse.

Two items need to be added to the Proposed Agenda ~ Greetings from the Synod Transitional Leader, Rev. Dr. Harold Delhagen at 2:00pm and New Business at 2:30pm.

It was moved/seconded/passed to adopt the agenda with the two additions.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

### **1. Approval of the MINUTES of the Stated Meeting of November 19, 2011.**

### **2. Report of the PRESBYTERY COUNCIL (part 1)**

The Council routinely shares copies of its Minutes for informational purposes:

- Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting of September 6, 2011 (corrected version)
- Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting of November 1, 2011
- Minutes of the Presbytery Council meeting of December 6, 2011

The Council reports that it has appointed a search committee for a new Stated Clerk/Webspinner. They will begin meeting next week.

Elder Elizabeth Buonocore (Chair), FPCU Syracuse  
 Elder Rebecca Chaffee, Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, DeWitt  
 Rev. Tracie Martin, Pastor of Robinson Memorial Presbyterian Church  
 Rev. David Nethercott, Pastor of First United Church, Fulton  
 Rev. Debra Thomas, member of former CREATION Team

The Council reports that it has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Elder David Sperling as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery so that he can resume his work in Africa. The Council hopes to appoint an Acting Stated Clerk by the time of the Presbytery meeting on Jan. 21.

### **3. Report of the COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

- a. The Committee on Ministry approved the renewal of the contract between the Amboy Belle Isle Church and the Rev. Betty Jones to serve as Stated Supply from Jan 1, 2012 to Dec. 31, 2012.
- b. The Committee voted to add the Rev. Gail Muckey, a United Church of Christ minister who worships at the Faith United Church of Oswego, to the 2012 Pulpit Supply list.
- c. The Committee recommended that the Rev. Patricia Simmons, Designated Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Syracuse be invited to participate in the Early Ministry Institute April 30 – May 5, 2012 at the Stony Point Conference Center.
- d. Upon request from the Congregational Meeting of the recently-merged South and Onondaga Valley Presbyterian Churches, the Committee approved the change of name from Mission Presbyterian Church United to South Valley Presbyterian Church.
- e. The Committee reports that two important workshops have been scheduled for this spring, and encourages all congregations, teaching and ruling elders, volunteers and staff who work with children and youth to attend both:

**Child Safety and Abuse Prevention Workshop**  
 Saturday, March 24, 2012 at 10 am to noon  
 Location to be announced.

**Boundaries Awareness** with Rev. Dr. David Olsen  
 Saturday, May 5, 2012

9 am to 3 pm  
Location to be announced.

The Committee reminds all teaching elders that the Presbytery's Policy Statement and Procedures on Ministerial Misconduct require attendance at a boundaries awareness workshop every three years.

- f. The Committee on Ministry has added the Rev. Susan Alloway to the Pulpit Supply List.

#### **4. Report of the TRUSTEES**

- a. The Trustees move the proposed 2012 budget for a second reading and adoption. As we indicated at the November meeting, this budget will need to be adjusted as of July 1, 2012 as we implement the new structure of presbytery.

“See 2012 Budget Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse.pdf”

- b. The Trustees have scheduled a time at their January meeting to talk with two members of the Ecumenical Camp Association board (ECU) and the director of Vanderkamp about the 2011 year and plans for the future.
- c. The Trustees report that they have withdrawn the purchase offer for the property at 90 Franklin Street, Auburn (the former Calvary Presbyterian Church) that was made to Thompson Memorial AME Zion Church of Auburn, after they failed to meet their final deadline to present a fully completed and signed purchase offer. The church has been told that they are welcome to remain tenants of the Presbytery under the current terms. Trustees will be discussing our next steps shortly.
- d. The Trustees, in consultation with the Treasurer, have elected to pay 2012 Synod and GA *per capita* by the end of January to take advantage of a small savings.
- e. The trustees and the Committee on Ministry are sponsoring a Child Safety workshop on Saturday, March 24, 2012. This is the first workshop on this subject since 2005. Details will be publicized as soon as time and place are finalized. Please reserve the date.

#### **5. Report of the STATED CLERK**

- a. Below is a list of actions that Sessions and Congregation need to take over the next year to comply with changes in the PCUSA Form of Government (nFoG). These actions are recommended by Stated Clerks within the Synod of the Northeast.
  - Determine a quorum for session meetings.

- Determine how membership rolls shall be organized.
- Recommend to the congregation a quorum for congregational meetings.
- Recommend to the congregation a definition of “adequate public notice” for congregational meetings.
- Recommend to the congregation the size and make-up of the congregation’s Nominating Committee.
- Develop the criteria and process for the preparation and examination of candidates for office.
- Establish a term for the church Treasurer.
- Establish a term for the Clerk of Session.
- Develop and approve a sexual misconduct policy, if you do not have one.
- Develop or amend your *Manual of Operations*.
- At the next congregational meeting, make a motion that the congregation establishes *Robert’s Rules of Order* as the parliamentary authority for congregational meetings.

The Stated Clerk reports that the Council reluctantly accepted the resignation of Elder Richard Tuxhill (Auburn, Westminster) from the Board of Trustees.

- b. The Stated Clerk reports that he tendered his resignation to the Presbytery Council on January 3, 2012 in order to pursue an opportunity in South Sudan. At this time, I would like to thank the Rev. Dr. Marianne Rhebergen for the opportunity and for the exceptional support that she has provided to me during my brief tenure. I am also grateful to Renee Perry for her help and support and good sense of humor. Jean Harshaw provided much conversation and wisdom during our chats on Tuesdays. I also wish to thank all with whom I have worked, and wish you all every success in the changes that you will be enacting in the coming year. God Bless.

## **6. Korean Partnership Mission and Ministry Team**

The Korean Partnership M&M Team is pleased to report that Pyongyang Presbytery has extended a preliminary invitation to Cayuga-Syracuse to send a delegation of approximately ten persons to Seoul in April 2012 to participate in the celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Pyongyang Presbytery. The celebration will coincide with their presbytery meeting April 16-18. Details on exact travel dates and airfare costs are pending. Members of the delegation will be chosen by the Korean Partnership M&M Team in the next few weeks. If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity, or would like to recommend

someone to participate, please contact Linda Russell as soon as possible at [l russ@aol.com](mailto:l russ@aol.com) or 315-730-6930.

The Partnership M&M Team says “Thank you!” to Presbytery for the \$4,000.00 grant awarded at the November 2011 meeting to help fund health monitors in the malaria eradication program in Blantyre North Relief Project in Malawi. The Rev. Harvey and Gertrude Sindima write: “We are grateful to the Presbytery for this donation of \$4,000 and for its continued support of BNRP. Everyday [we] thank God for these co-workers, without whom thousands of people would be suffering from malaria and hundreds of children dying. The monitors will be very happy to know that their work is being appreciated in a place far off as America.”

Rev. Sindima shares the following update on the BNRP Malaria Eradication project:

- As of November 30, 2011 BNRP monitors had tested, diagnosed and treated 97,000 patients, over one-third of whom were children under age 5 and pregnant women—the target populations. Rain or shine, the monitors cover long distances on bicycles throughout an area equivalent to that from Syracuse to Rochester.
- Since January 2011, there have been no malaria-related deaths among the target populations or anyone else in the treated area.
- The phenomenal success of the BNRP malaria project is unheard of in Malawi—and even in the whole of the Southeastern part of Africa—and is due to its comprehensive approach. The strategy consists of teaching, Indoor Residential Spraying (IRS), rapid field testing, diagnosis, treatment, and post-treatment follow-up (at 4, 14, 28 and 48 days).
- Treatment is given to all who test positive for malaria. In addition, all pregnant women are given a preventative treatment at 4- and 7- months of pregnancy to protect the mother and also to prevent mother-child malaria transmission (malaria parasites hide in the placenta). There are currently over 6,100 pregnant women waiting for treatment at a cost of \$69.60 for 24 pills per woman.
- 10,000 insecticide-treated mosquito nets have been distributed to children under age five. The nets cost \$6 each and are effective for five years. BNRP currently needs an additional 20,000 nets to cover all the children registered in this project.

To learn more about this and other Partnership mission projects, or to schedule a program for your church or organization, contact Linda Russell at [l russ@aol.com](mailto:l russ@aol.com) or 315-730-6930. Contributions to the BNRP Malaria Eradication project may be made by check written to Westminster Church, 17 William St., Auburn, NY 13021 and marked “Malawi Mission” on the memo line.

## **WORSHIP**

Host Pastor Rev. Stuart Hayes and Moderator, the Rev. Janet Newman led the Presbyter in worship. Rev. Newman, using Luke 5:17-26 as her text preached on “Breaking Paralysis.

“In the midst of all the changes this year, we can find hope and a renewal of the Spirit as we break the patterns that have paralyzed us. Our new by-laws call our congregations to be presbytery together and while we are not all ready to take this leap of faith, we can help one another through the process.”

Other highlights of worship were the Service of Necrology and the Celebration of the Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION – FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH UNITED**

The Rev. Dr. Roger Martin presented the report from the Administrative Commission of the First Presbyterian Church United.

He began by saying this is his seventh time where a congregation has requested to be dissolved and it is always an emotionally filled time, but this time there is a spark. He recommended that everyone read the article 1,001 in 10 that was published in *Presbyterians Today* and was also emailed to everyone for today’s meeting.

The First Presbyterian Church United began this journey many years ago. They were part of the New Beginnings and as part of the project came to the realization that they would not have enough funds to complete 2012 and felt they had one option and that was to close.

They looked at who they are and the community around them. They decided to put their emphasis on ministry to the community and have been following this the past year and a half. For example, their sign by the church lists when breakfast is served instead of just when church is. The session and administrative commission met monthly.

Page 2 of the Administrative Commission Report says that the congregation has voted and they will be closing as a congregation on April 8, 2012, which is Easter Sunday. They will be having a celebration of Ministry on May 6, 2012 at 2:00pm. The hope is that the new Missional Initiative will begin their new thing in 3-6 months. One of the missions that will continue is the breakfast on Saturday morning so the relationship between the new entity and community will continue and the mission will also continue to grow.

They also provided a document from the Presbytery of Philadelphia, which contains guidelines for missional church, how do they govern themselves and do a new thing. They provided the document to show that there are ways for presbyteries and new initiatives to be in relationship together. Our hope is that we will begin walking down this road with First Presbyterian Church United and then others as they might redevelop.

The third part of the document is still in flux and it is the Administrative Commission’s proposal on what to do with things like property and artifacts. The presbytery has received communication from two directors of music wanting to know when they can look at what they have to sell.

We will also need to help find ways to fund the initiative and provide help with their food pantry. This is the only food pantry in that zip code and the rules state that you can only go to food pantries within your zip code.

They think they might have the issues of the property worked out with thanks to David Graham and Marianne Rhebergen. There is a church interested in the property and is willing to let the Missional Initiative continue in part of the space.

Pastoral care for members of the church who will be looking for a new church will be provided.

The Administrative Commission **Moves** To approve the request from the congregation to be dissolved on April 8, 2012 and to celebrate the life and legacy of the church on May 6, 2012. The motion passed.

### **INTRODUCTION OF THE SYNOD TRANSITIONAL LEADER**

The Rev. Harold Delhagen, the Synod Transitional Leader, was introduced. It was moved/seconded/passed to allow him time on the docket to address the presbytery later in the meeting.

### **Report of the PRESBYTERY COUNCIL, continued**

Presbytery Council, acting as Nominating Committee for the Presbytery, places in nomination the following names:

#### **Commissioners to the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly:**

Ruling Elder Roberta Richardson (Northminster Church, N Syracuse)

*Bert is completing three years of service to the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse as Vice-Moderator, Moderator of Presbytery, and Council Chair. She is very active at Northminster Church, has worked as a Christian Educator in several of our churches, and is studying to become a Commissioned Lay Pastor.*

Teaching Elder Robert French

*Bob has recently served the Presbytery as Vice-Moderator, Moderator, and Council Chair (2008-2011), and served on the Administrative Commission for Calvary Presbyterian Church. He is Pastor of the United Ministries of Aurora and Chaplain at Wells College.*

Youth Advisory Delegate – Pearl Fischer (First Presbyterian Church United, Syr.)

*Pearl is a lifelong member of First Presbyterian Church United, where she serves on the Board of Deacons. She is a student on Onondaga Community College, has attended Youth Triennium, Vanderkamp, and participated in the trips to the United Nations with the Central New York PPG Advocacy program.*



## **Alternate Commissioners to the 220<sup>th</sup> General Assembly**

Ruling Elder Elizabeth Buonocore (First Presbyterian Church United)

*Liz is a current member of the Presbytery Council, and chairs the Human Resources Committee for the Presbytery. She is an active member at FPCU, where she teaches Sunday school and serves on several committees. Liz is Vice-President for Administration of the ACMG Federal Credit Union in Syracuse.*

Teaching Elder Kathleen Waters

*Kathleen has been a member of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse for well over a decade. She has served as Stated Clerk, Chair of the Board of Trustees, on the Council, and in numerous other capacities. Kathleen presently serves as Interim Pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church in Syracuse.*

## **Ecumenical Camp Association (Vanderkamp) Board, class of 2014**

## **Central New York Presbyterian Conference Center Board (CNYPCC), class of 2014**

Teaching Elder Shawn Reyburn

*Since August 2011, Shawn has served as the Pastor of Columbian Presbyterian Church in LaFayette. He has many years of experience in recreational ministry, having served on camp boards and as director of summer program at a presbytery-owned camp in the Presbytery of the Peaks in southern Virginia.*

## **NEW STRUCTURE**

They are working to put into effect the new standing rules and bylaws and what will happen next. The timeline they are following is below:

- November/December
  - Meet with congregations about their technological needs, what they have in place and what will be needed to get them where they should be and how can the presbytery help them reach the goal (this hasn't been done yet, but is still planning to get it done)
- January/February (where we are right now)
  - Launching the website
  - Defined position for the stated clerk/webspinner and discussed if the position can be done together or if they will need to be separate positions
  - Advertise the position
  - Making key decisions for support to M&M Teams, resource center, Vanderkamp (These will be discussed at the next presbytery meeting). The M&M Teams should have received an email explaining that funding will be for the first six months of 2012 and the last six months of 2012 a new budget will be worked on and they may need to seek funding from other sources for that time period. A

form was attached to the email for them to access whether they have accomplished their mission and return to completed form to the presbytery.

- Initiative budget planning – trustees are taking this under their care and will present a report to the Council meeting in February.
- March/April
  - Educating people on the virtual office and the website
  - Election of a stated clerk
  - Election of new officers

Marianne Rhebergen clarified that the emails sent to the M&M Teams was to give them a mechanism to help them if they want to continue their mission since M&M Teams are not in the new structure.

Rev. Linda Evan said that Fayetteville endorses one of the M&M Teams and they were not aware that they are being required to do this. She asked who the emails were sent to and the response was the heads of M&M Teams. It was decided to send the email to all congregations.

Jean Harshaw said that the Trustees may well come back to the presbytery with a rationale for funding the M&M Teams the second half of the year. They are working on how to adjust a budget for only half a year when some items are for an entire year.

Craig Lindsey suggested that the Trustees figure out what the per capita will be for 2013. A congregation can't shift more funds toward mission since the administrative costs will change, but aren't sure how.

Earl Arnold asked what the Council will be called in the new structure. It was answered that they don't know yet and are open to suggestions.

### **WEBSITE**

Rev. Bill Grossman presented the new website to the members through a Powerpoint presentation. He introduced each page of the website and what its purpose is for.

They are asking each congregation to send the presbytery a description of what the church is about so the information can be linked to their church. When a congregation is clicked, a new page will open with the information and a map that will tell people how to get there. The information can be sent to Nancy Wind or Marianne Rhebergen. The information can be changed at anytime if updates are needed.

The calendar will be set up through Google.

The Resources Page will contain all the data for presbytery meetings and forms. They are hoping to have another name for this tab.

The person who is hired for the Stated Clerk/Webspinner position will be using the website to disseminate the information. The person will need to be creative in how to spread the information out that can help congregations find the information on the website.

It was asked when the website will go live and the response was the March meeting at the latest.

It was asked if congregations will have the ability to change their information. The answer was that they aren't going to be able to do this initially, but may in the future.

At 12:30 the Presbytery gathered for lunch.

**REV. HAROLD DELHAGEN, SYNOD TRANSITIONAL LEADER**

The Rev. Harold Delhagen, the Synod Transitional Leader was welcomed by the presbytery and given time on the floor.

Rev. Delhagen reported that he is a member of the Reformed Church of America. The Synod of the Northeast's territory is the eight northeast states and has 22 presbyteries and 1,100 congregations.

When he agreed to take the job four months ago, a week after he gave his resignation the news from General Assembly on dissolving Synods was released. Due to this news, we are all going to be engaged in change. This is an opportunity to be involved in the change instead of being informed what the change is.

He reported that in his experience with congregations closing it is because they were waiting for change to happen and not creating the change. He commended the presbytery and the First Presbyterian Church United on what they are doing to move forward even with being dissolved.

We need to ask congregations who are revitalizing to go back to the teachings of Jesus and be ready to let go of what no longer helps us. These are the principles he is using as the Synod moves into transition. Also asking ourselves what are those things that can't be done adequately and should we continue to do them?

It's all about that we have been given gift of the gospel. When we gather together to be entrusted with the gospel (stewards of the gospel), we should ask ourselves what is this thing we call church (gospel communities). Presbyteries gather these gospel communities together and help them carry out their work.

The Synod is unveiling the Transition Working Group next week who will work with Harold on how the Synod should transition and meet with the listening groups on what they would like to see the Synod do in the future.

He said that if the transition is going to work, it needs to be transparent. He is going to be establishing a blog that will discuss the transition and what is currently being done. If we get a sense of people thinking "where did that from," the working group didn't do their job.

**OVERTURE AND RECORDS COMMITTEE**

Sandy Sanderson presented the overture on W-4.9000 that states:

“Teaching elders and commissioned ruling elders authorized to conduct services of Christian marriage may exercise pastoral discretion when asked to officiate at such a ceremony for two people who have obtained a civil marriage license, and sessions may permit the use of church property for such services. This authorization does not oblige any elder to act contrary to his or her judgment or conscience.”

The committee moves the overture to be submitted to General Assembly as printed.

Rev. Earl Arnold spoke for submitting the overture. He informed everyone that he was a member on General Assembly Special Committee on Civil Unions and Christian Marriages at the last General Assembly and was surprised about the history on marriage that he didn't know about and learned by being on the committee. He thought that marriage has always been the way it was, but it is not the case. In the early church marriage was regulated by the rules of the Roman Government. It was in the middle ages when the government stopped being effective and the Roman Catholic Church took over. Marriage was one of the items that was changed in a variety of ways. It was then turned back to the government and ruled by the individual states, which is part of our culture now. The overture is asking teaching elders to perform marriage as part of the civil law in which they live. The teaching elders will be able to decide on a case to base basis on whether to perform the marriage.

Garrett Anderson asked if when the request for the vote came before the presbytery to be able to vote by ballot and not voice or hands. A ballot vote was approved and the results will be tallied by Bert Richardson and Garrett Anderson. It was pointed out that commissioners, teaching elders, and council members are allowed to vote.

Craig Lindsey spoke against motion that while he believes that eventually our culture in the church will be at this point, he doesn't think the church is ready for this yet. Especially with each state haven't different laws and view points on civil unions.

Kathleen Waters spoke in favor of the overture since the overture is asking General Assembly to look at the interpretation of the rule. Pastoral discretion can be used when making the decision whether to perform the ceremony or not. She stated she is currently a pastor at a United Church of Christ congregation and they have always left the decision up to the pastor's discretion. She is looking forward to getting guidelines from the Presbyterian Church (USA) on civil unions. She encouraged everyone to continue the work in advocacy and to move the overture forward.

The ballot vote was taken at this time. Renee Perry and Roger Martin collected the ballots. Bert Richardson and Garrett Anderson will tally the ballots. If approved, the overture will be presented to the General Assembly for action. The results of the tally are 28 for the motion, 10 against and 2 abstentions. Marianne Rhebergen reported that she was one of the abstentions. The motion passed.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Bill Grossman reported that the presented Committee on Ministry Report was included in the consent agenda, but he has additional information to report.

The Committee on Ministry moves to approve the contract between the First Presbyterian Church-Liverpool and the Rev. Garret Anderson to change his status from pastor called to designated position to pastor called to permanent position. This action removes the designation call and makes him a permanent installed pastor. The motion passed.

Craig Lindsey offered congratulations to the church. This is a wonder position they are in compared to where they were a few years ago. He then asked if another installation was required for the change. The answer was it isn't required in the New Form of Government.

### **VANDERKAMP**

James Davis, Director of Vanderkamp, reported on where Vanderkamp is from when he reported last March. Brochures on their summer camp were included in all the packets handed out today.

The camp has taken a cutting edge approach to working with the kids. They are teaching them positive theology and the kids are responding, which is up 3% from the previous summer. A number of children stood during church and thanked their congregation for scholarships to attend the summer camp and stated they now felt closer to God. The Winter Reunion attendance had 75 participants, which is three times as many that they had in 2010.

One child told him at the end of his camp that he hadn't been teased all week and that it is the only place isn't.

The core of Vanderkamp's approach is that they celebrate children as partners of Christ. They are treated as human beings and that as children are the first in the kingdom of Heaven. There is a section on the camp's website that goes into more detail on the program under Essays. The Camp seeks to create a community for children. They have been contacted by two other Presbyterian camps regarding this model.

Due to Vanderkamp being an ecumenical camp (Presbyterian and Lutheran owned) they serve kids in all denominations, so they don't preach on one theology. They focus on what all denominations have in common.

They offer the following programs:

- Summer camp
- Family camp
- Retreats for youth groups
- Alternative to Spring Break (April 10-13, 2012) for Senior High Kids
- Retreats

Information on the programs is available on their website at [www.vk.org](http://www.vk.org).

Things Vanderkamp needs are:

- Sharing a link campaign – put Vanderkamp's link to on your website
- Make brochures available to kids in your congregation
- Ask for a church visit
- Send a child to camp
- Pastors and Nurses Volunteers

- Buy a bed campaign
- Website help

### **OVERTURE ADVOCATE**

It was mentioned that an overture advocate has been sent in the past when presenting an overture.

Kathleen Waters said Earl Arnold is willing to be the advocate and presented his name for nomination. Sandy moved to nominate Earl Arnold as the overture advocate and it was seconded by Neil Rotach.

It was asked where the finances would come from.

Jean said that if a advocate is elected, the Trustees will come back with a revised budget with the line item for the advocate. Kathleen said the presbytery sent two people to the last General Assembly and each person was budgeted \$800.00.

The floor was opened for nominations and none were given. It was moved that nominations be closed. The motion to name Earl Arnold as overture advocate was passed.

### **TRUSTEES**

Jean Harshaw reported on the Trustees. The budget was passed through the consent agenda.

She said the Trustees would like to remind everyone that if you are buying property, been willed or gifted property, renting or selling property, to be sure the information is provided to the Trustees.

A question was asked about lead paint in a house that was sold and is being renovated and since the presbytery didn't have information on that house, we didn't have an answer for the person.

### **TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTER REPORT**

Rev. Marianne Rhebergen gave the Transitional Presbyter report. She was thinking about the path First Presbyterian Church United is walking and the path the Presbytery is walking seeking support for the work that God is doing.

She spoke about reading the book *In Dying We are Born* written by a pastor to who didn't just reflect on what the congregation felt they could let go of life, but to call all of our attention to the gospel message that by losing life, we gain life.

She then read Ecclesiastes 3 and said we mostly hear the line "Time to be Born, Time to Die" and that we miss the point of the text. God's ways are inscrutable and mysterious and so much greater and powerful than us. This has given her a new insight into a sense of freedom and everything that has been before, will be again. We can't see the beginning of what God has done.

This is a time for First Presbyterian Church United to mourn and walk the path they are walking. It is also a time of change to recognize God's providence is greater than we will ever know. This

is also true for presbytery, synod and PC(USA). We are being torn asunder in one perspective and we need to walk as a church with all the emotions that are in the text.

The next presbytery meeting will be on March 27<sup>th</sup> at First Presbyterian Church United. It will begin with worship in the sanctuary and then move to Hudson Hall for the meeting. They are inviting a small congregation that can't usually host a meeting to co-host with First Presbyterian Church United for this one.

**NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business brought to the acting stated clerk.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:57pm with prayer by Janet Newman.

[Approved without exception by presbytery, 27 March 2012]