

# STATED MEETING OF ALBANY PRESBYTERY

## MEETING PACKET



**Saturday, June 11, 2011**

**Registration and Fellowship begin at 8:30am**

**Call to Worship and Business Meeting begin at 9:30am**

Meal Tickets for Lunch are \$6 per person

Please make checks payable to: United Church of Cohoes

Lunch will be served at 12:30 PM

Presbyters with dietary restrictions are invited to bring their own lunch

**Hosted by The United Church of Cohoes**

**123 Mohawk Street, Cohoes, NY 12047**

**Telephone: 237-0278**

**website: [www.uccpcusa.org](http://www.uccpcusa.org)**

### **DIRECTIONS:**

**From South:** (Albany) Take 787N to Cohoes, turn left onto Ontario Street, left onto Mohawk Street.

**From North:** (Glens Falls, Clifton Park, Saratoga) Take 87S toward Albany, take NY7E via Exit 7, merge onto 787N toward Cohoes, turn left onto Ontario Street, left onto Mohawk Street.

**From East:** (Troy, Vermont) Take NY Route 7 follow 7-W merge onto NY 787N toward Green Island/Cohoes, turn left onto Ontario Street, left onto Mohawk Street.

**From West:** (Schenectady) Take NY7E merge onto NY 787N toward Cohoes, left onto Ontario Street, left onto Mohawk Street.

### **PARKING:**

There is street parking, and volunteers will be available to direct presbyters to parking lots near by

**THE PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY Stated Meeting – June 11, 2011**  
Presbytery Telephone 273-4991  
**United Presbyterian Church of Cohoes - Church Telephone 237-0278**

**DOCKET**

Notes: New Business must be presented in writing to the Moderator prior to the meal.  
Standing Rules & Basic Parliamentary Procedures are available at the Clerk's desk.

8:30 a.m. Gathering and Registration

9:30 a.m. Call to Order and Opening Worship with Hymn – Kirianne Riehl, Moderator  
Sermon – Lynn Hasselbarth

**9:45 a.m. DISPERSE TO WORK ON MISSION PROJECTS OR ATTEND WORKSHOPS**

**Mission Projects:**

Capital City Rescue Mission - up to 10 people - kitchen work and serving lunch  
Focus Churches of Albany - up to 4 people - "gardening in a bucket" for kids  
Interfaith Partnership for the Homeless - up to 10 people - making a meal or painting  
Livingston Community Gardens - up to 15 people - planting, cultivating, clearing brush  
Troy Area United Ministries - up to 6 people - yard prep work, planting a garden  
United Church of Cohoes - up to 14 people - painting, cooking, folding/sorting clothes  
and digging post holes

**Workshops:**

Bible Study - led by Kate Kotfila and Barbara Wheeler  
Implementing Sexual Misconduct Policies - led by Kathy Gorman-Coombs, Jerry  
McKinney, Laura Rogers  
Peer Review for Clerks of Session - led by Dan Rogers  
Church Treasurers Workshop - led by Bill Ramage  
Unbinding the Gospel - led by Tim Coombs (on evangelism and sharing your faith)

12:30 p.m. Lunch

1:30 p.m. Hymn  
Speak Out (opportunity to express views in 1 minute or less).

1:45 p.m. Announcements and Greetings from Host Church  
Compile Roll, Seat Corresponding Members, Welcome First Time Attendees  
Approval of Meeting Docket as distributed  
Approval of Minutes of April 12, 2011, stated meeting as distributed  
Report of the Stated Clerk - Dan Rogers  
Act on Consent Agenda – Consent items found in the following reports: Stated Clerk [p.8 ]; COM [p.9 ]; CPM [p.10 ];  
and Council [p.12 ].

2:00 p.m. General Presbyter's Report - Cass Shaw

2:10 p.m. Congregational Health and Transformation Report – Tim Coombs

2:40 p.m. Committee on Ministry Report [pp.8 ] – Tom Gregg

Examination of Candidate Drew Paton for Ordination (Pastor for Spencertown)  
Possible examination of another pastor for transfer of membership  
Honorable Retirement Recognitions – Larry Deyss and Earl Johnson  
Other business as needed.

3:30 p.m. CLP Recognition of Darren Gundrum – Terry Diggory

3:35 p.m. Council Report (Peacemaking Task Force – second reading and action) – Paul Randall

3:50 p.m. Board of Trustees Report (if anything) – Don Stake or Gale Bury

3:55 p.m. Mission Review Committee Report (if anything) – David Moore

4:00 p.m. Nominating Committee Report (if anything) – Diane Calvanese

4:05 p.m. Unfinished / New / Miscellaneous Business

4:15 p.m. Closing Worship with Celebration of Lord's Supper by Bonnie Orth and another celebrant yet to be named.

4:30 p.m. Adjournment

## **Stated Clerk's Report – Meeting Day Packet – June 11, 2011**

### **The following is presented for information:**

Since Proposed Amendment 10-1, New Form of Government, has been approved by at least a majority of presbyteries, it will become effective on July 10, 2011. All other Proposed Amendments to the current 2009-2011 Form of Government (Amendments 10-A through 10-H) have also been approved by at least a majority of presbyteries. They will be incorporated into the New Form of Government and become effective on July 10, 2011 as well. Attached are two helpful informational documents for sessions and congregations that were prepared by the Stated Clerk in another presbytery. The first document summarizes "WHAT DOES CHANGE" from the current Form of Government to the New Form of Government. The second document summarizes "WHAT DOES NOT CHANGE."

### **The following is presented for action by Presbytery:**

1. To avoid any unforeseen issues during the transition time from the current Form of Government to the New Form of Government as amended, I recommend that Presbytery approve the following:

*With respect to any matter that the New Form of Government leaves to be set as policy at the discretion of a Presbytery, which was formerly included as part of the 2009-2011 Form of Government as amended by the 219th General Assembly (2010), that matter as stated in the 2009-2011 Form of Government as amended is temporarily adopted as Albany Presbytery policy until December 31, 2012, or until superseded by further action of Albany Presbytery.*

2. Similarly, I recommend that Presbytery act to recommend that all congregations take a similar action prior to July 10, 2011, to avoid any unforeseen issues during the transition time, e.g.:

*With respect to any matter that the New Form of Government leaves to be set as policy at the discretion of a congregation or its session, which was formerly included as part of the 2009-2011 Form of Government as amended by the 219th General Assembly (2010), that matter as stated in the 2009-2011 Form of Government as amended is temporarily adopted as congregational or session policy until December 31, 2012, or until superseded by further action of the congregation or session.*

Rationale: As an example, the current Form of Government provides that the quorum of a meeting of the congregation shall be not less than one tenth of the members (G-7.0305). G-1.0501 of the New Form of Government provides that "Congregations shall provide by rule the quorum necessary to conduct business." Unless the By-Laws of a congregation currently establish a specific quorum or unless an action similar to the above recommended action is taken by a congregation prior to July 10, 2011, the provisions of Robert's Rules of Order may apply. And some may understand Robert's Rules of Order to define a quorum as one half of all active members plus one. For some churches it may be difficult to achieve a quorum of one half plus one at a congregational meeting.

New Form of Government: What DOES CHANGE

Basic terminology has been changed. Minister of Word and Sacrament=Teaching Elder

Elder=Ruling Elder

Governing body=Council

<b>New Book of Order Reference</b>	<b>Content of the Reference</b>	<b>What is the change?</b>
G.1.04	Categories of membership	No longer an inactive membership roll
G.1.0501	Quorums for congregational meetings	Congregations need to set their own quorum, no longer a set percentage G-7.0305
G.1.0501	Terms of Call reviewed annually	Conducted at congregational meetings but not required on an annual basis G.7.0302a
G.1.0502	Call for a congregational meeting	Congregations need to set their own rule for adequate public notice, no longer 2 successive Sundays G-7.0303b
G.1.0505	Signatures on congregational minutes	Moderator no longer needs to sign congregational minutes G-7.0307
G.2.0503, G.2.0508	Categories of membership for teaching elders	No longer an inactive list G-11.0406c
G.2.0504	Installed pastoral relationships	Pastor, co-pastor and associates. Easier process for a co-pastor. No longer specific designated pastor but can have a pastor for a "designated time" G-6.0202b
G.2.0504	Temporary pastoral relationships	No titles or descriptions for any temporary relationship G-14.0550
G.2.0504c	Associates	Associates may become the next installed pastor with COM approval and $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of presbytery G-14.0513
G.2.0504c	Interims	Former terms interims and supply pastors...these folks may now become the next installed pastor with COM approval and $\frac{3}{4}$ vote of presbytery G-14.0513
<b>New Book of Order Reference</b>	<b>Content of the Reference</b>	<b>Old Book of order Reference</b>
None	Parish associates	There will no longer be a designation of Parish Associate G-14.0570
G.2.0505	Ministers from other denominations	Presbyteries have more flexibility based on mission strategy G-11.0404, G-11.0405
G.2.0605	Pastors serving the presbytery in temporary positions	Presbytery provides for the rule of who may serve in a temporary position...there are no longer distinctions of churches that the

		denomination is in correspondence with or in communion with G-11.0405
G.2.0605	Inquirers and candidates in relation to their sessions	Session and Presbytery oversight is no longer spelled out in specifics G-14.0412, G-14.0413
None	Annual reports	Annual reports for inquirers and candidates are not mandated G-14.0421
G.2.0608	Transfer of an inquirer or candidate to another presbytery	More flexibility in transferring. Silence on when the transfer to a new church home takes place G-14.0461
G.2.0610	Alternate means exams	You no longer have to have failed the exam twice to request an alternate means. Still needs a ¾ vote of presbytery G-14.0472
G.2.0702	Place of ordination	Presbytery of call examines and now ordains G-14.0481
G.2.0903	Moderator of congregational meeting when a dissolution	Presbytery now appoints moderator, previously, the pastor moderated (G-14.0612)
G.2.1001 and following	CLP's (now called Commissioned Ruling Elders)	Training more flexible (g-14.0560)
G.2.1103a and b	Certified Christian Educators	No accreditation process is outlined (G-14.0720)
G.2.1103b	Certified Christian Educators at Presbytery	CCE may now have voice and vote, previously voice only (12.0730b)
G.4.0103	Committee on Representation	COR's membership is not specified (G-9.0105a)
<b>New Book of Order Reference</b>	<b>Content of Reference</b>	<b>Old Book of Order Reference</b>
G.3.0104	Length of term of office for Presbytery Moderator	Term of office no longer defined (G-9.0202b)
G.3.0109, G.3.0307	Constitutional Committees	Councils may designate their own committees and commissions...COM, CPM are no longer required (G-11.0502- 03 and G-14.0410)
G.3.0109	Administrative Commissions	Membership numbers no longer dictated (G-9.0504b)
G.3.0111	Nominating Committees for all councils	No longer stipulations on composition or terms of service (G-9.0801a)
G.3.0203	Quorum for sessions	No longer designated by Book of Order...sessions make their own rule
G.0204a	Rolls to be maintained	No longer an inactive roll; No longer need to keep marriages or differentiate between infant and adult baptisms (10.0302b)
G.3.0301	Parity of commissioners to	No longer a formula for basic

	presbytery	parity; now by presbytery rule (G-11.0101a)
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New Form of Government: What DOES NOT CHANGE

<b>New Book of Order Reference</b>	<b>Content of the Reference</b>	<b>Old Book of Order Reference</b>
F.3.0101	God alone is Lord of the conscience	G-1.0301
F.3.0205	Decisions are made by majority vote	G.4.0301e
F.3.0206	Higher bodies have the right of review over lower bodies	G-4.0301f
F.30207	The individual Council (governing body) is the ordaining body	G.4.0301g
G.1.02	Congregations can only be organized by authority of presbyteries	G.7.0101
G.1.0302	No person shall be denied membership not related to profession of faith	G-5.0103
G.1.0503	The business that may be conducted at congregational meetings	G-7.0304
G.1.0504	If moderators are unable to moderate	G-7.0306
G.2.0102	Governance of the church is representative and the rights of God's people to elect presbyters and deacons is inalienable	G-6.0107
G.2.0105	Freedom of Conscience within certain bounds	G-6.0108
G.2.0202	Deacons are under the authority of the session	G-6.0404
G.2.0401	Congregations elect deacons and elders	G-14.0221
G.2.0402	Elders and deacons to be trained by session	G-14.0240
G.2.0404	Terms of service for elders and deacons defined	G-14.0222
G.2.0406	Release from office	G-6.0600
G.2.0502	Presbytery validates the ministry of teaching elders	G-11.0403
G.2.0601	There are still two phases for those going into the Ministry: inquiry and candidacy	G-14.0401
<b>New Book of Order Reference</b>	<b>Content of the Reference</b>	<b>Old Book of Order Reference</b>
G.20602	6 month church membership requirement for a person, 1 year inquiry and one year candidacy for those seeking to go into	G.14-4030

	ministry	
G.20610	Exceptions for ordination exams...alternate means still requires ¾ vote of presbytery	G-14.0470
G.2.0610	Inquiry/candidacy time frame of one year can be changed by ¾ vote of presbytery	G-14.0473
G.2.0801-02	PNC elected to fill a pastoral vacancy	G-14.0503-31
G.2.0803	Presbytery needs to be consulted before call extended	G-14.0532
G.2.0804	Terms of call must meet presbytery minimums including pension	G-14.0534
G.2.0901	Dissolution of installed call only by presbytery	G-14.0610
G.2.0904	Presbytery may dissolve a pastoral relationship in difficulty	G-14.0613
G.2.0905	Former pastors may officiate by invitation only	G-14.0603
G.3.0103	Committees on Representation still mandatory, but composition is up to the council	G-9.0105a
G.3.0105	The right of dissent and protest is preserved	G.9-0303-04
G.3.0106	Each council shall develop a manual of operations	G-9.0405
G-3.0106	Presbyteries may level Per Capita, but <b>new language is added</b> : in no case shall the authority of the session to direct its benevolences be compromised	G-9.0404d
G.3.0107	Records are the property of the council and clerk shall make arrangements to preserve them	G.9.0406
<b>New Book of Order Reference</b>	<b>Content of the Reference</b>	<b>Old Book of Order Reference</b>
G.3.0108	The right of review of higher councils to lower councils	G-9.0407
G.3.0108b	The right of special administrative review is maintained	G-9.0408
G.3.0109	Commission is empowered to conclude matters referred by a council	G-9.0502
G.3.0113	All councils shall have a full financial review	G-10.0401d
G.3.0205	Session elects treasurer	G-10.0401
G.3.0301	Minimum # of churches to form a presbytery - 10	G-11.0102
G.3.0302	Presbyteries: elect graders ord exams, est. minimum	G-11.0103

	compensation, assume original jurisdiction when necessary, consider/ act on congregations requests re. property	
G.3.0401	Synods need to have 3 presbyteries	G-12.0101
G.3.0405	Synods need to meet at least biennially, can set its own quorum	G.12.0101
G.3.0501	GA...same formula for number of commissioners, same quorum, same guidelines for special called meetings	G.13-0102b
Chapter 4	Regarding civil law and property is essentially the same	G-8.000-8.0100ff
G4.0203	All property is held in trust for the denomination	G-8.0201
G.4.0302	Ministers, elders, deacons and Christian Educators are mandatory reports to both ecclesiastical and civil authorities	G-6.0204, 6.0304, 6.0402, 14.0732
G.6.02	An advisory committee to the constitution shall be in effect, same number of people	G-13.0112
G.6.04	Amending the constitution is the same process	G-18.0301ff

**Committee on Ministry Report – Meeting Day Packet for June 11, 2011**

**The following items are presented to the Presbytery for information:**

1. COM met on June 8, 2011. The next meeting will be on June 29, 2011, and will be with the Mission Review Committee. Meeting on June 29 will also include a review of the workload and structure of COM.
2. COM APPROVED grants from the Presbytery's Pensions and Ministerial Assistance Reserve Fund to the Rev. Pamela Woodman (for up to \$667 to assist with moving and storage expenses) and for the Rev. Frances W. Rosenau (for \$2,000 to assist with unexpected social security expenses) and ACTED TO SUPPORT their applications for matching Shared Grants in the same amounts from the Board of Pensions.
3. COM approved proposals for Mentoring Training for mentors for newly ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament in Albany Presbytery and for creation of Covenant Groups for pastors and forwarded them to Council with a request for funding.
4. COM approved a request from St. Peter's Presbyterian Church in Spencertown to have the Rev. Rick Otty serve as pulpit supply for eight consecutive Sundays from July 10 through August 28, 2011.
5. COM will request quarterly reports from all Interim Pastors serving churches in the Presbytery.

**The following recommendations are presented as part of the Presbytery Consent Agenda:**

1. That Presbytery APPROVE the attached terms of call for ministers in Albany Presbytery for 2011.
2. That Presbytery APPROVE the request from the Roessleville Presbyterian Church session to renew their contract with the Rev. Dr. Joseph Shook to serve as ¼-time (12 hours per week) Stated Supply and Moderator from August 1, 2011, until July 31, 2012. Responsibilities: Prepare weekly worship service; lead

worship and preach weekly; moderate Session and congregation; make emergency hospital calls as needed; and provide other services as mutually agreed on. Compensation: Salary - \$7,965; housing - \$2,390; deferred compensation - \$5,000; medical reimbursement - \$104; and social security offset - \$800. Other medical - \$1,712. Professional expenses plus mileage - \$154. Continuing Education - \$393. Vacation: 4 weeks including 4 Sundays annually. Total commitment: \$18,518 (annual).

**The following recommendations are presented for Presbytery discussion and action:**

1. Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members and approval of COM at its meeting on June 8, 2011, COM RECOMMENDS that Presbytery examine the Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison, Presbytery of Newark, for transfer of membership so that he may enter into an agreement with the Session of the Delmar Presbyterian Church to be its Interim Pastor effective July 5, 2011, through July 4, 2012, and to be its Moderator upon transfer of membership with the following annual terms: full-time; salary \$34,000; housing allowance \$35,000; pension and medical dues \$23,456; social security offset \$5,334; other medical benefits \$725; study allowance \$2,000; travel and professional expenses at IRS rate not to exceed \$2,000; total compensation \$102,515. Study leave and vacation in accordance with Presbytery policy. Reimbursement for moving expenses to be negotiated according to needs.
2. Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members and unanimous approval by the congregation of the Malta Presbyterian Church at a duly called meeting moderated by the Rev. Pamela Woodman on June 5, 2011, COM RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve the call of the Malta Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Pamela Woodman to be its Pastor and Moderator effective June 11, 2011, with the following terms: 1/2-time (24 hours per week); salary \$15,930; housing allowance \$4,779; medical allowance \$207; total effective salary \$20,916; pension and medical dues \$9,215; social security offset \$1,600; continuing education expense allowance \$400; professional reimbursable expenses \$200; travel (mileage) reimbursement \$900; total compensation \$33,231. Study leave and vacation in accordance with Presbytery policy.

It is noted that since an open search process was conducted by COM to establish the designated pastor relationship between the Rev. Woodman and the Malta Church and since she has served as Designated Pastor at that church for over 2 years (G-14.0523), it was proper for the session, acting in place of a pastor nominating committee, to call a congregational meeting to present the Rev. Woodman, as its candidate to be called as Pastor.

Furthermore, COM RECOMMENDS that Presbytery authorize COM to approve the Administrative Commission recruited by the Rev. Woodman to install her as pastor at the Malta Presbyterian Church.

**Frequently Asked Questions about the New Form of Government**  
**Office of the General Assembly**  
**June 2011**

**When will the new Form of Government take effect?**

The new Form of Government will take effect on July 10, 2011, which is one year after the adjournment of the 219th General Assembly (2010) of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

**What has changed with the adoption of the new Form of Government?**

The same basic polity that has defined the core work of the councils (governing bodies) of the Presbyterian Church continues with the new Form of Government. This revision is not so much about the “what” that councils do – our essential polity – as it is about the “who” and the “how.” Increased flexibility in structures and procedures in a less regulatory environment is the major change that has occurred. The new Form of Government allows councils to increase their focus on God’s work and how the church can most effectively participate in that work in each situation, rather than being focused on an increasingly lengthy and burdensome list of requirements.

**Will a council need to immediately revise its manual of operations?**

Existing manuals – already required of presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly, and also in use by many sessions – remain in force until changed by a council. Revisions do not have to be made immediately, affording a council time to determine what structures and procedures will work best to carry out its identified mission for Jesus Christ. The “Advisory Handbook for Councils” identifies policies and procedures required by the new Form of Government for each council, most of which should already be in place and would be revised only if and when a council deems it necessary.

**What about sessions that have no manual?**

Sessions will need to create a manual of their policies and procedures that will, at the least, need to define certain discretionary powers now given to them. These are described in the Advisory Handbook and include such things as quorums, adequate notice for special meetings, any changes to the nominations process, and so forth. Many of these might already exist as standing policies (prior actions) of the session. The size of the manual will depend on how detailed the structure is that the session has in place.

**What happens to existing Authoritative Interpretations under the new Form of Government?**

Authoritative Interpretations (AIs) of the Constitution can only be made or rescinded by the General Assembly. All current AIs remain in effect until changed by a future General Assembly, which is precisely the situation that has always existed with any amendment to the Form of Government that has been previously interpreted. A task force is currently working to make recommendations to the 220th General Assembly (2012) on the continuing status of all AIs, based on guidelines provided by the Advisory Committee on the Constitution to the 219th General Assembly (2010).

**How will accountability be enforced in the new Form of Government?**

The new Form of Government continues the long-standing Presbyterian principle of right-of-review of one council by the next higher council (F-3.0206, G-3.0108). Emphasis is also placed on the need for consultation between councils on mission strategy, structures, and procedures. Enforcement of administrative and judicial directives relies even now on trust and mutual accountability, undergirded by our belief that all church power is ministerial and declarative (F-3.0107).

Our work together as Presbyterians gathered in congregations and councils of the church will continue to be guided by this important declaration: “The polity of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) presupposes the fellowship of women, men, and children united in covenant relationship with one another and with God through Jesus Christ. The organization rests on the fellowship and is not designed to work without trust and love” (new G-1.0102; compare to current G-7.0103). No Form of Government can legislate this trust and love, but by answering the new Form of Government’s call to work cooperatively and collegially to identify and implement the mission of each council of the church, we may find a deepened sense of commitment and connection to Jesus Christ and each other as the journey progresses.

**What impact will the adoption of Amendment 10-A have on the text of the new Form of Government?**

The passage of Amendment 10-A that changed the text of current G-6.0106b will also change the text of the same passage in the new Form of Government, G-2.0104b. The new language of the amendment will replace the current language in G-2.0104b. The same is true for several other amendments adopted this year. At the end of each amendment in the booklet published by the Office of the General Assembly (Booklet #3) is a statement that indicates the impact of the adoption of the amendment on the new Form of Government.

**When will the new edition of the *Book of Order* that contains the new Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and new Form of Government be available?**

It is anticipated that the print version of the new *Book of Order* will be in the warehouse by the second week of July, after which orders will begin to be processed.