

# DOCKET WITH PRE-MEETING PACKET ~ January 29, 2011

Presbytery Telephone: 273-4991 ----- Stated Clerk Telephone: 273-3390

**NOTE: New Business must be presented in writing to the Moderator prior to the meal  
Standing Rules and Basic Parliamentary Procedures are available at the Stated Clerk's Table**

## We Gather and Worship God Together

8:30	Registration and Gathering	
9:30	Call to Order	Kirianne Riehl, Moderator
	Opening Worship with Memorial Moment for Rev. Charles Woodman	
	Announcements	
	Greeting from Host Church	

## We Present our Offerings of Mission and Ministry

	Compile Role, Seat Corresponding Members, Welcome First-Time Attendees	Dan Rogers, Stated Clerk
	Approval of Meeting Docket as distributed	
	Approval of Stated Meeting Minutes of November 16, 2010 as distributed	
	Report of the Stated Clerk, page 3	
	Act on Consent Agenda - Consent items found at the beginning of the following report: COM, page 7	
10:00	General Presbyter's Report	Cass Shaw
10:10	Presentation on proposed new Form of Government - <b>nFOG</b>	Dan Rogers and Joyce Brewer
10:25	Small Group Conversation Opportunities	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>nFOG</b> - Dan Rogers and Joyce Brewer</li><li>• Company of Elders and Pastors - Kate Kotfila and Cass Shaw</li><li>• Recruiting Pastors and Interns - Kirianne Riehl</li><li>• Mission Trip Opportunities - Mission Review Committee</li></ul>	
11:15	Committee on Ministry (COM) Report, page 7	Tom Gregg
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examination Process, page 10</li><li>• Examination Guidelines, page 11</li><li>• Examination of Candidate Elizabeth Shen O'Connor for Ordination (Temporary Supply Pastor for Brunswick), page 12</li><li>• Examination of Rev. Susan Goodin for transfer of membership (Interim Pastor for Lake George Caldwell), page 13</li><li>• Examination of Rev. Ali Trowbridge for transfer of membership (At-Large Minister Member), page 15</li><li>• Act on Contracts for Kate Kotfila (Stated Supply for Cambridge) and Cheryl Colt (Stated Supply for Charlton Freehold), page 9</li><li>• Recognize Rev. Marsha Cutting's Honorable Retirement</li><li>• Warrensburg Per Capita Waiver Recommendation, page 9</li><li>• Triennial Visit Report for 2010 - Donna Elia</li></ul>	
12:15	<b>We Share God's Good Gifts - Lunch</b>	

## We Worship God Together

1:00 Worship led by Pakistani-American Fellowship

## We Continue our Offerings of Mission and Ministry

1:30 Speak Out (Opportunity to express views or make announcements in one minute or less)

1:45 Summer Camp Opportunity Presentations by Representatives of Holmes Camp, Sky Farm and Camp Fowler

2:00 Council Report, page 17 Paul Randall  
• Debate and Vote on **nFOG**

2:40 CPM - Introduction of Lynn Hasselbarth as Inquirer Cheryl Colt

2:45 Mission Review Committee Report Jim Reisner

2:50 Golden Hattie Award presentation Tim Coombs

3:00 Board of Trustees Report, page 18 Don Stake / Gale Bury  
• Recommendation concerning request from Mayor Stratton  
• Jermain recommendation

3:30 Argyle Enabling Commission Report Jerry McKinney

3:45 Nominating Committee Report, page 18 Sue Haney

3:50 Unfinished / New / Miscellaneous Business

## We Worship God Together

4:00 Necrology Report and Celebration of The Lord's Supper Harry Heintz and Holly Cameron

## We Go Out in God's Name and Adjourn as the Church Sent into the World

# STATED MEETINGS 2011

The United Church of Greenwich will host the next Stated Meeting to be held on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, beginning at 4 p.m. ~ [http://www.unitedchurch12834.org./](http://www.unitedchurch12834.org/)

Host churches with program-related facilities are being recruited by Council for the following 2011 meetings

Tuesday, September 20th, 4pm

Saturday, November 12th, 9:30am

It is vitally important that:

✓ Churches notify the Stated Clerk's office immediately when its session elects a new Clerk of Session to facilitate future communications from the Presbytery to Clerks of Session.

✓ Elder Commissioners write their names legibly when signing in at Presbytery meetings so the minutes of the meeting can accurately report the full names of each commissioner.

# STATED CLERK REPORT

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

1. The United Church of Greenwich will host the next stated presbytery meeting on Tuesday, April 12, 2011 beginning at 4 p.m.
2. The following are the remaining Presbytery stated meeting dates for 2011:  
Saturday - June 11 at 9:30 a.m. at the United Church of Cohoes  
Tuesday – September 20 at 4:00 p.m.  
Saturday - November 12 at 9:30 a.m.

Host churches with certain program-related facilities are being recruited by Council for meetings in 2011.

3. Attached are the Membership Rolls of Albany Presbytery effective December 31, 2010, page 4
4. Attached is a report on payment of Mission Pledges by member churches effective December 31, 2010, page 5
5. Attached is a report on payment of Per Capita by member churches effective December 31, 2010. Late payments received through January 13, 2011, are included, page 6
6. The Moderator intends to implement the following procedure for the debate of Amendment 10-1 related to adoption of a new Form of Government at the January 29, 2011, meeting. Each speaker will be limited to 2 minutes. Timers will be used. Speakers will be alternated pro and con. If approved by action of the Presbytery, non-commissioners (visitors) may be given voice during this debate, and every fourth speaker could be a non-commissioner if there are enough wishing to speak. The rationale for this is that the Moderator wants to be sure that commissioners have a chance to hear each other, since it is ultimately their responsibility to vote on the matter. All speakers should be sensitive to the total length of time available for considering the matter. Concise statements will be valued at a premium, and wordy or redundant statements will run the risk of being counter-productive.
7. The Stated Clerk has reviewed the 2009 minutes of five churches that were turned in following the November 16, 2010, Stated Meeting. This brings the total number of churches which have had their minutes reviewed for 2009 to 68 out of 72. The Session and Congregational Meeting Minutes of the following church were approved with exceptions: Hoosick Falls Church (16), Cornerstone (Lansingburgh) (7), Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church, Westminster Presbyterian Church (Schenectady), and First Watervliet (15). The minutes of the following four churches have not been provided yet for review: Carlisle, Greenwich, Mechanicville, and Scotia.
8. Former Albany Presbytery Candidates Marjory Jean Roth and Russell W. Roth were ordained by Geneva Presbytery on December 5, 2010, and they have begun their ministry as pastors of the Wolcott and Huron Presbyterian Churches in Wolcott, New York.
9. Upon the request of the member's wife, a letter of transfer has been issued for Harold Beckert (an inactive member of the former Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church) to the Palms West Presbyterian Church in Florida. Upon request from the pastor of the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Menands, a letter of transfer has been issued for Susan Pratt (an active member of the former Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church) to the Bethany Presbyterian Church. Claire K. Finkelstein (an active member of the former Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church) has been removed from the rolls due to her death on January 3, 2011.

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

As required by G-8.0502, the Session of the Oakwood Church requests permission to lease its Sanctuary to the Capital District Christian Church on Sunday mornings from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. and on Thursday evenings from about 6:30 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.

# MEMBERSHIP ROLLS OF ALBANY PRESBYTERY (December 31, 2010)

## Roll of Active Members (68)

Rolf Ahlers	Christopher Garrison	Roland MacDonald	Kirianne Riehl
John Aldridge	Kathleen Gorman-Coombs	Jerry McKinney	Robert Rose
John Barclay	Laurence Greenwold	Shannon Meacham	Frances Wattman Rosenau
David Bennett	Thomas Gregg	Laura Mitchell	Hwa Sung Ryu
Viki Brooks	Lucy Harris	David Moore	Nadeem Sadiq
Michael Burkley	Harry Heintz	Mary-Lynn Morrison	Kathryn Shaffer
Holly Cameron	Richard Hoffman	Bonnie Orth	Cass Shaw
Kathleen Chesnut (UCC)	Douglas Evans Holmes	Richard Otty	Allen Siebold (UMC)
Cheryl Colt	Beth Illingworth	Jeffrey Palmer	Kathryn Stenta
Timothy Coombs	Earl Johnson, Jr.	David Park	Bebb Wheeler Stone
Steven Cronn	Kathi Jones	Richard Patterson	Susan Strang
James C. Davis	Ruth E. J. Kuo	Stewart Pattison	Nicholas TeBordo
Patricia Davies	Miriam Lawrence Leupold	Cheryl Peaslee (ABC)	Gregory Town (RCA)
Larry Deyss	Glenn D. Leupold	Jackie Pinkowski	Rebecca Town (RCA)
John Ekman	Linda Martin	Michael Plank	Mary Woodman
Donna Elia	Herbert Mayne	Susan Rambo	Pamela Woodman
Donna Frischknecht	John McAuley	James Reisner	Elaine Fogarty Woroby

## Roll of Honorably Retired (49)

Alan Brokaw	Rupert Harris	Edward Morren	Joseph Shook
Theodore Brothers	Scott Hicks	James Mosher	Alfred Siegel
Fergus Cochran	Paul Hopwood	Shirley Mosholder	David Simmons
Robert Criswell	Stark Jones	Hugh Nevin	Robert Smith
Lois Dodge	Vincent Kumjian	S. Albert Newman	Donald Stake
William Dodge	Robert Lamar	Myron Nichols	Charles Stratton
Peter Durkee	Alexandra Lusak	Harvey Noordsy	Helenmarie Sunkenberg
Leif Erickson	Dennis Maher	Thomas Parsons	Richard Symes
Eric Fagans	David McMillan	Donald Pepper	James Thompson
Barbara Floryshak	Bruce Miller	William Rambo	Jane L.S. Watt
Robert Garvin	James Miller	Paul Randall	Dan Wheeler
Douglas Gray	Margaret C. Miller	Samuel Shinn	Paul Wilson
			Lois Wolff

## Roll of Members at Large (8)

Kenneth Applegate	Robert Goodin	Richard Hill	Andrew Little
Marsha Cutting	Robin Greene	Kate Kotfila	Mary Jo Pattison

## Roll of Those Deleted from Other Rolls Since 1983

Stephen McLean, under G-11.0416 on September 21, 2010	(Ordained on 7/6/86 by Lehigh Presbytery)
Terry Mosholder, under G-6.0701 on January 4, 2007	(Ordained on 11/1/92 by Shenandoah Presbytery)
Marilyn K. Creel, under G-11.0406C on December 31, 2006	(Ordained on 9/15/74 by Albany Presbytery)
Charles L. Murn, under G-6.0501 on March 29, 2004	(Ordained 9/18/66 by Hudson River Presbytery)
Constance Ekback, under G-11.0416 on March 23, 2004	(Ordained 6/5/93 by Palisades Presbytery)
Robert Richardson, under G-6.0501 on 4 December 1996	(Ordained 6/13/76 by Susquehanna Presbytery)
David Jong Do, under G-6.0501 and D-3.0105 on 21 August 1996	(Ordained 4/5/79 by the Korean Church of Christianity Presbyterian Church. Received under G-11.0404b by Albany Presbytery on 3/26/94)
Dawkins Hodges, under G-11.0414 on 28 November 1995	(Ordained 10/24/82 by Shenandoah Presbytery)
Scott Munroe, under G-11.0413 on 10 December 1991	(Ordained 8/7/79 by Philadelphia Presbytery)
William A. Darling, under G-11.0414 on 2 May 1989	(Ordained on 6/24/78 by Lake Erie Presbytery)
Robert S. Magee, under G-11.0413 on 15 November 1988	(Ordained on 5/27/62 by Cincinnati Presbytery)
Edmond G. Dyett, under G-11.0500 on 16 March 1985	(Ordained 10/5/26 by Philadelphia Presbytery)

## 2010 Mission Giving as of December 31, 2010

Church	2010 Shared Mission Pledge	2010 Shared Mission Giving as of 12-31-10	% of Annual Pledge	Church	2010 Shared Mission Pledge	2010 Shared Mission Giving as of 12-31-10	% of Annual Pledge
Albany, First	\$47,500	\$47,500	100%	Mechanicville		\$111	
Albany, New Covenant	\$2,000	\$2,000	100%	Menands	\$5,000	\$5,000	100%
Albany, Roessleville	\$2,200	\$1,100	50%	New Scotland	\$500	\$500	100%
Albany, West End	\$2,400	\$2,400	100%	Northville	\$2,000	\$2,000	100%
Albany, Westminster	\$43,000	\$36,000	84%	Poultney	\$3,000	\$0	0%
Amsterdam	\$1,000	\$1,000	100%	Putnam Station	\$1,200	\$1,200	100%
Argyle	\$5,052	\$3,015	60%	Rensselaer	\$500	\$1,240	248%
Ballston Spa		\$975		Rensselaerville	\$1,000	\$1,044	104%
Breakabeen-N Blenheim		\$0		Salem		\$1,000	
Broadalbin	\$500	\$500	100%	Saratoga	\$20,000	\$20,000	100%
Brunswick		\$4,200		Schaghticoke	\$1,840	\$2,708	147%
Cambridge	\$2,500	\$2,466	99%	Schenectady, Christ's Church of the Hills	\$3,215	\$3,215	100%
Carlisle		\$1,125		Schenectady, Korean	\$3,000	\$3,000	100%
Charlton Freehold		\$0		Schenectady, State Street	\$1,000	\$500	50%
Cohoes		\$0		Schenectady, Union	\$9,287	\$9,287	100%
Corinth	\$5,200	\$5,200	100%	Schenectady, Westminster		\$12,410	
Delmar	\$12,000	\$12,000	100%	Schoharie	\$1,464	\$1,464	100%
East Hebron		\$328		Scotia	\$1,000	\$1,167	117%
Esperance		\$0		Shushan	\$1,000	\$1,000	100%
Glens Falls, Chapel	\$300	\$0	0%	Spencertown	\$1,200	\$1,200	100%
Glens Falls, First	\$19,000	\$19,000	100%	Stephentown		\$300	
Gloversville	\$2,200	\$2,200	100%	Stillwater	\$8,740	\$7,700	88%
Granville		\$1,000		Tribes Hill		\$0	
Greenwich	\$250	\$0	0%	Troy, First	\$22,156	\$22,156	100%
Guilderland	\$8,725	\$8,843	101%	Troy, Oakwood	\$600	\$300	50%
Hoosick Falls	\$175	\$175	100%	Troy, Third		\$0	
Hudson	\$600	\$600	100%	Valatie	\$6,500	\$6,500	100%
Hudson Falls	\$0	\$0		Warrensburg		\$500	
Jewett	\$600	\$600	100%	Waterford	\$1,500	\$0	0%
Johnstown	\$10,700	\$3,867	36%	Watervliet, First		\$0	0%
Lake George, Bay Road ( <b>Note 1</b> )	\$0	\$0		Watervliet, Jermain	\$1,770	\$1,771	100%
Lake George, Caldwell		\$0		West Charlton	\$975	\$275	28%
Lake Luzerne	\$10,618	\$10,618	100%	West Galway		\$100	
Lansingburgh	\$800	\$200		West Hebron	\$1,000	\$1,000	100%
Loudonville	\$1,680	\$1,680	100%	Whitehall		\$0	
Malta		\$500		Pakistani-American Fellowship	\$1,500	\$1,500	100%
Mayfield		\$500					
				<b>Presbytery Total</b>	<b>\$279,947</b>	<b>\$279,739</b>	<b>100%</b>
				<b>Presbytery Budget</b>	<b>\$280,000</b>		<b>100%</b>

**Note 1:** Bay road is making payments directly to mission projects and will not send the money through the Presbytery

## 12-31-2010 Per Capita Payments with Receipts through January 13, 2011

Church	2010 Per Capita	2010 Paid as of 12/31/10	% Paid YTD	Church	2010 Per Capita	2010 Paid as of 12/31/10	% Paid YTD
Albany, First	\$13,202	\$13,202	100%	Mechanicville	\$1,353	\$715	53%
Albany, New Covenant	\$2,665	\$2,665	100%	Menands	\$3,239	\$3,239	100%
Albany, Roessleville	\$2,255	\$2,255	100%	New Scotland	\$4,510	\$4,510	100%
Albany, West End	\$1,968	\$1,829	93%	Northville	\$5,945	\$5,945	100%
Albany, Westminster	\$13,981	\$13,981	100%	Poultney	\$1,476	\$1,478	100%
Amsterdam	\$7,052	\$7,052	100%	Putnam Station	\$2,091	\$2,091	100%
Argyle	\$10,496	\$8,250	79%	Rensselaer	\$1,107	\$1,107	100%
Ballston Spa	\$4,879	\$4,879	100%	Rensselaerville	\$1,640	\$1,600	98%
Breakabeen-N Blenheim	\$1,353	\$0	0%	Salem	\$3,157	\$3,198	101%
Broadalbin	\$5,166	\$5,166	100%	Saratoga	\$11,193	\$11,193	100%
Brunswick	\$19,188	\$19,188	100%	Schaghticoke	\$2,624	\$2,624	100%
Cambridge	\$3,075	\$3,075	100%	Schenectady, Christ's Church of the Hills	\$4,551	\$4,551	100%
Carlisle	\$1,968	\$1,476	75%	Schenectady, Korean	\$4,838	\$4,838	100%
Charlton Freehold	\$3,731	\$3,731	100%	Schenectady, State Street	\$4,305	\$2,235	52%
Cohoes	\$8,200	\$5,000	61%	Schenectady, Union	\$9,840	\$9,840	100%
Corinth	\$6,396	\$0	0%	Schenectady, Westminster	\$1,640	\$410	25%
Delmar	\$7,544	\$7,401	98%	Schoharie	\$3,362	\$3,362	100%
East Hebron	\$1,312	\$1,312	100%	Scotia	\$5,330	\$5,330	100%
Esperance	\$1,230	\$0	0%	Shushan	\$1,640	\$1,640	100%
Glens Falls, Chapel	\$902	\$0	0%	Spencertown	\$5,125	\$3,844	75%
Glens Falls, First	\$24,600	\$24,600	100%	Stephentown	\$1,189	\$1,189	100%
Gloversville	\$2,419	\$2,419	100%	Stillwater	\$7,339	\$7,340	100%
Granville	\$2,378	\$2,173	91%	Tribes Hill	\$2,993	\$2,993	100%
Greenwich	\$3,321	\$2,491	75%	Troy, First	\$5,699	\$5,699	100%
Guilderland	\$7,421	\$7,435	100%	Troy, Oakwood	\$1,640	\$820	50%
Hoosick Falls	\$1,927	\$1,927	100%	Troy, Third	\$4,018	\$4,016	100%
Hudson	\$2,050	\$2,200	107%	Valatie	\$4,305	\$4,305	100%
Hudson Falls	\$7,462	\$3,731	50%	Warrensburg	\$2,747	\$1,374	50%
Jewett	\$1,271	\$1,271	100%	Waterford	\$1,558	\$0	0%
Johnstown	\$6,027	\$6,028	100%	Watervliet, First	\$2,583	\$2,583	100%
Lake George, Bay Road	\$4,059	\$4,059	100%	Watervliet, Jermain	\$2,788	\$2,788	100%
Lake George, Caldwell	\$8,077	\$8,077	100%	West Charlton	\$5,289	\$5,290	100%
Lake Luzerne	\$6,519	\$6,519	100%	West Galway	\$1,066	\$1,066	100%
Lansingburgh	\$4,428	\$1,107	25%	West Hebron	\$4,141	\$3,157	76%
Loudonville	\$3,731	\$3,731	100%	Whitehall	\$246	\$0	0%
Malta	\$1,189	\$892	75%				
Mayfield	\$5,371	\$5,371	100%				
				<b>Presbytery Total</b>	<b>\$335,380</b>	<b>\$300,860</b>	<b>90%</b>

# COM REPORT

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

1. COM met on November 10 and December 8, 2010, and on January 12, 2011.
2. Received a request from the Board of Trustees for an opportunity to partner with COM to consider options to make available funds from the sale of properties of dissolved congregations to ongoing congregations within the Presbytery for them to use for capital building improvements and invited the Board to meet with the committee to discuss this matter on Wednesday, March 30, 2011.
3. Received a report from the Triennial Visit Task Force on the visits they had made in 2010. Donna Elia will present this report to Presbytery at its meeting on January 29, 2011. Donna highlighted the need for more people to serve on the task force.
4. ACTED to excuse the Rev. Cass Shaw from required Boundary Awareness Training in November 2010 because she was out of the country on a mission trip. She is expected to participate in Boundary Awareness Training in 2011.
5. ACTED to adopt new Continuing Education and Sabbatical Guidelines developed by the Pastoral Care Subcommittee. The Guidelines will be posted to the Presbytery web site and copies will be provided in the meeting packet for the January 29, 2011 meeting.
6. ACTED to approve placing the Rev. Bob Goodin and the Rev. Rick Otty on the Approved Preaching List.
7. ACTED to approve revised contract terms for the Rev. Larry Greenwold at Tribes Hill Presbyterian Church.
8. Received a report on recent activities at the Pakistani-American Fellowship including celebration of the sacraments of communion and baptism.
9. ACTED to provide partial financial sponsorship as has been done in the past for a luncheon sponsored by the Board of Pensions for retired clergy, wives, and survivors in the spring.
10. Received a report from Tom Gregg on his plans to resign from the committee and move to California this summer to join his family and the resulting need for a new committee chair to be elected. This need will be referred to the Committee on Nominations.
11. ACTED to approve a "Policy Regarding Minister Members Desiring to Seek a New Call Within the Bounds of Albany Presbytery". The Policy will be posted to the Presbytery web site and copies will be provided in the meeting packet for the January 29, 2011.
12. ACTED to approve a request from Lauren Grogan (wife of Michael Plank, Pastor at the Hudson Falls Church) for \$300 in financial support to attend the PC(USA)'s "Next Church" Conference with Michael at the end of February 2011. Funds will be taken from the Restricted COM Training Funds account with the understanding that she will provide a report/training for COM after attending the conference.

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

1. RECOMMENDS Presbytery approval for renewal of the contract between the Rev. Donna Elia and the session of the Hoosick Falls church for another year at Presbytery minimum terms.

2. Due to the death of the church's pastor Charles Woodman, RECOMMENDS that Jim Mosher be appointed to serve as moderator starting on February 1, 2011, until an interim pastor is in place. Cass Shaw will moderate session and congregational meetings at the church in January 2011.
3. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve the request of the New Covenant Presbyterian Church congregation to have a Small Church Nominating Committee for 1 year. They meet the requirements of G-14.0226.b.
4. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve the request of the West Galway Presbyterian Church congregation to allow Elders Cindy Colby and Robert Eaton to serve an additional 3-year term having already served two consecutive 3-year terms. G-14.0226.c.
5. Noting that recent Federal tax legislation has reduced FICA (Social Security) withholdings by 2 percent for 2011 and that, in the past, Presbytery voted to share social security withholding costs with pastors. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery act to encourage all churches to allow the entire 2 percent reduction in withholding to be passed to the pastors, since the legislation specifically targets individuals and not employers.
6. RECOMMENDS that Elder Bill Henderson be authorized to administer the Lord's Supper at the Brunswick Church during the month of February 2011 after receiving instruction from pastor Harry Heintz. Rationale: Bill is a member of the Brunswick Church and the Rev. Harry Heintz, Pastor, and the Rev. Rich Patterson, Parish Associate, will both be away during the month of February.
7. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve a contract between the Rev. Ken Applegate and the session of the State Street Church to serve as Temporary Supply and Moderator effective February 15, 2011, for up to 6 months at the following terms: 10 hours per week with compensation of \$800 per month. Study leave and vacation in accordance with Presbytery policy.

**PLEASE NOTE: The "Appendix" of the Presbytery Policy on Examinations, along with the Statements of Faith and Biographical Information for Candidate O'Connor, the Rev. Susan Goodin and the Rev. Alice Trowbridge are included on pages 11- 16 at the end of this Committee on Ministry report.**

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

1. Following a satisfactory Clearance Interview with COM members, RECOMMENDS that Candidate Elizabeth Shen O'Connor (a candidate under care of Seattle Presbytery) be examined for ordination by Seattle Presbytery as a Minister of Word and Sacrament to the Temporary Supply position at Brunswick Presbyterian Church, and pending her actual ordination by Seattle Presbytery, that she be approved to serve as Temporary Supply. It is noted that a Candidate may serve as a Temporary Supply without being ordained but may not administer the Sacraments until she is ordained.

COM has reviewed and found acceptable and therefore RECOMMENDS APPROVAL of the following terms for the proposed Temporary Supply agreement between Elizabeth Shen O'Connor and the Session of Brunswick PC: full-time for 1 year and renewable for additional 1-year terms; start date to be determined; total effective salary - \$42,000 (including housing allowance); medical reimbursement – up to \$1,500; pension and medical dues - \$13,703; social security offset - \$3,328; continuing education - \$1,590; professional reimbursable expenses - \$545; travel (mileage) reimbursable expenses - \$1,400; total compensation – up to \$64,066. Payment of full moving / relocation expenses. Study leave – minimum 2 weeks. Vacation – minimum 4 weeks to include four Sundays. Participation in Albany Presbytery's Continuing Education/Scholastic Leave Program. Participation in Early Ministry Institute.

2. Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members, RECOMMENDS that Presbytery examine the Rev. Susan M. Goodin, Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley, for transfer of membership so that she may enter into an agreement with the Session of the Caldwell Presbyterian Church of Lake George to be its Interim Pastor effective January 1, 2011, through December 31, 2011, and to be its Moderator upon transfer of membership with the following terms:

full-time; salary \$22,609; housing allowance \$21,501; tax sheltered annuity \$500; pension and medical dues \$14,193; social security offset \$3,407; other medical benefits 1,144; continuing education allowance for travel \$1,590; professional development expenses \$1,626; regular travel reimbursement \$2,984; medical deductible reimbursement \$466; total compensation \$70,000. Study leave and vacation in accordance with Presbytery policy. If the Rev. Goodin is accepted for membership in the Presbytery, COM RECOMMENDS that Presbytery extend thanks to the Rev. Tom Parsons for serving as moderator at the Caldwell church since November 1, 2010.

3. Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members, RECOMMENDS that Presbytery examine the Rev. Alice Trowbridge for transfer of membership from Chicago Presbytery to be a member at large.
4. Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members, RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve a contract between the Rev. Catherine Kotfila and the Session of the Cambridge Presbyterian Church to be its Stated Supply and Moderator effective January 30, 2011, through January 30, 2012, with the following terms: 20 hours per week; housing allowance - \$29,476; social security offset - \$2,255; continuing education allowance - \$795; professional expenses - \$313; total compensation \$32,839. Study leave (minimum 2 weeks) and vacation (30 days including four Sundays) in accordance with Presbytery policy. COM RECOMMENDS that Presbytery extend thanks to the Rev. Mary Woodman for serving as moderator at the Cambridge church. COM has counseled with the minister and the session about pension (403b Plan) possibilities as well as medical and travel reimbursement and recommends that the Presbytery approve the contract as presented. The Board of Pensions does not require temporary positions to be part of the BOP program.
5. Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members, and action by the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls to approve the Rev. Cheryl Colt's request to dissolve her relationship there as Associate Pastor, RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve the contract between the Rev. Cheryl Colt and the Session of the Charlton Freehold Presbyterian Church to be its Stated Supply and Moderator effective February 1, 2011, through January 31, 2012, with the following terms: 2/3-time (32 hours per week); salary \$17,020; housing allowance \$14,000; tax sheltered annuity \$1,980; medical allowance \$333; total effective salary \$33,333; pension and medical dues \$10,500; social security offset \$2,399; other benefits \$276; continuing education expense allowance \$1,060; professional reimbursable expenses \$417; travel reimbursement \$510; total compensation \$47,985. Study leave and vacation in accordance with Presbytery policy. If the contract is approved, COM RECOMMENDS that Presbytery extend thanks to the Rev. Joe Shook and the Rev. Tom Gregg for serving as moderators at the Charlton Freehold.
6. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery act to approve Honorable Retirement for the Rev. Dr. Marsha Cutting effective January 31, 2011.
7. Following receipt of a request from the Session of the Warrensburg Presbyterian Church, RECOMMENDS that Presbytery waive 50% of their per capita for 2010 and 50% of their per capita for 2011 with the condition that the session will keep its previous commitments to work with Tim Coombs and Lucy Harris on discernment for the future and that COM representatives will visit with them at mid-year for an update review of what discernment has taken place.

RATIONALE: The Warrensburg request raises another of the pressing issues facing the Albany Presbytery. It is a legitimate request and yet one that does not yield to a simple response. We have a number of churches facing serious challenges with respect to keeping their ministry a viable force in the lives of the congregation and in their larger community. There are times when a temporary relief from financial pressures can make a difference. However, when we grant relief from ecclesiastical apportionment we are asking sister churches in the presbytery to bear that burden for the duration of the period of relief. This is understood as a part of our greater mission as a connectional denomination committed to supporting Christ's ministry to the best of our ability. However, sister churches have the right to ask if this is a meaningful act of support. It is with this balance in mind the Committee on Ministry reviewed this request and proposes to review any other such request that might come forward in the future.

In conducting our review we have not created a rigid template. We have attempted to ask a series of thoughtful questions that we believe useful in helping shape a recommendation to presbytery that is considerate of the needs of the requesting congregation and balanced in using our resources in a manner we believe can "make a difference" in the life of a ministry.

The questions we have examined are:

- a. Does careful review of the congregation's financial status reflect a legitimate need?
- b. Have reasonable measures been taken to carefully manage costs so as to maximize the impact of available resources?
- c. Has the congregation been in consultation with the COM in advance of making this request?
- d. Has that consultation explored alternative strategies that might be employed to address their concerns?
- e. Are there action steps currently underway that may reasonably be expected to make a difference in the time frames for which relief is requested?
- f. Should the action steps prove not to be sufficient to make a meaningful difference in the viability of the congregation as currently organized are the church and COM willing to return to consider other courses the congregation may pursue?

The request from the Warrensburg Session and COM reply provide some background that speaks to these issues. Neither does justice to the extent of past deliberations nor the commitment to continuing to work together, but we believe each of these questions can be answered in the affirmative and that the relief requested is an appropriate request for presbytery support.

## EXAMINATION PROCESS & QUESTIONS

As we work to make Presbytery meetings more relevant, creative, and helpful to commissioners, the Committee on Ministry (COM) is conducting the examination of candidates in a new way:

- A member of COM will introduce each candidate and offer a very brief synopsis of the process up to this point and why COM is commending him or her to the presbytery for ordination and/or membership.
- The candidates will NOT read their statements of faith. Instead, commissioners are urged to read the statements and biographies before the Presbytery meeting, found in the pre-meeting packet. Each candidate will be asked to respond to particular questions which they receive beforehand. For the January 29, 2011 meeting:

**The candidate being examined for ordination and membership, Elizabeth Shen O'Connor, will answer this question:**

*How did the process of inquiry and candidacy challenge and/or strengthen your sense of call to the pastoral ministry?*

**The candidates being examined for membership, Sue Goodin and Ali Trowbridge, will answer this question:**

*What have been the highlights of your ministry to date, and what are the particular challenges and joys you anticipate in your ministry in Albany Presbytery?*

- Candidates will then respond to any significant questions or concerns from the floor. Each presbyter is urged to ask only one question of one candidate until all other presbyters have had the opportunity to ask a question as well.
- All candidates will then be excused and the presbytery will confer together for up to 10 minutes and then vote on each candidate separately.

At any point, if the presbytery needs more time, it is always in order for a commissioner to move to extend the examination or debate for "X" minutes.

# EXAMINATION GUIDELINES

The following guidelines govern examinations in Albany Presbytery:

- 1) Examinations are to be conducted respectfully and prayerfully. Examinations are intended to give the prospective member an opportunity to demonstrate the qualities of mind and spirit that qualify him or her for membership and service in the Presbytery.
- 2) It is the right and duty of the Presbytery to determine whether the prospective member adheres to basic Christian doctrines as interpreted by Reformed traditions in the Confessions and whether he or she has sufficient preparation and ability to carry out the functions of office in a particular setting. At the same time, the Presbytery values theological diversity within Reformed bounds among its members and does not apply theological litmus tests for membership.
- 3) Questions should focus on the prospective member's faith, as expressed in the statement of faith, and on the ways the prospective member lives out that faith.
- 4) Because the Church trusts the Holy Spirit to guide, form, inform and renew the body each time it meets, Presbyterians have no single written list of fundamental doctrines or essential tenets to which all ministers must subscribe. Key themes of Reformed theology, however, occur regularly in the Confessions and are noted in the *Book of Order* in G-2.0500. Central to this tradition is the affirmation of the majesty, holiness, and providence of God, who creates, sustains, rules, and redeems the world in the freedom of sovereign righteousness and love. Related to the central affirmation of God's sovereignty are other great themes of the Reformed tradition:
  - 1) The election of the people of God for service as well as for salvation;
  - 2) Covenant life marked by a disciplined concern for order in the church according to the Word of God;
  - 3) A faithful stewardship that shuns ostentation and seeks proper use of the gifts of God's creation;
  - 4) The recognition of the human tendency to idolatry and tyranny, which calls the people of God to work for the transformation of society by seeking justice and living in obedience to the Word of God."

It is appropriate to question the prospective member on these themes if they are not adequately treated in the statement of faith.

- 5) By decision of Presbyterian church courts, probing personal questions about a prospective member's health, finances or life arrangements are appropriate only if: (1) the prospective member invites them by offering written or spoken comments on personal matters; (2) the same questions are asked of all prospective members; or (3) there is "plain, palpable and obvious" evidence available to the Presbytery that some element of a prospective member's manner of life may be an obstacle to ministry.
- 6) Both Minister Members and Elder Commissioners to Presbytery are strongly urged to participate in the questioning.
- 7) The 217<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2006) affirmed the constitutional right of prospective members of presbytery to identify ways in which their conscience, as formed by Scripture, compels them to depart from one or more ordination standards. It is then the right and duty of the presbytery to decide whether the departure involves an essential of Reformed faith and practice. If a prospective member of Albany Presbytery declares such a departure, the Council will seek to prepare the Presbytery to discern whether an essential of faith or practice is involved. There is no list of essentials, though there are guides, such as the list of themes cited above, that may help the Presbytery to discern them on a case-by-case basis.
- 8) If a departure is declared for the first time on the floor of Presbytery, without prior notice to the Committee on Ministry and the Council, the Moderator will ask the body whether it wishes to postpone further discussion until Council has had an opportunity to prepare resources for the discussion.
- 9) The Presbytery has the right to say "Yes," "No," or "Wait" to any prospective member. This includes those whose departure from ordination standards is deemed not to involve Reformed essentials.

# Elizabeth Shen O'Connor

## BIOGRAPHY

A God was knitting me together in my mother's womb, He was laying within me a heart for the study of God's word and the encouragement of god's people. Faith in Jesus Christ has been fundamental to both sides of my family for generations. On my father's side, my heritage lies in China, in the missionary branches of the Chinese Anglican and Lutheran traditions. On my mother's side, my heritage lies in the East Coast of America, in the Baptist tradition. I was raised in Seattle, Washington as a Presbyterian.

My faith was formed at the First Presbyterian Church of Seattle, a church in the heart of the city. This setting helped to shape my perspectives on faith and ministry through an urban lens. Though my family lived in the suburbs, we worshipped with and engaged in ministry alongside a diverse group of people from the surrounding neighborhood.

Later on, while at the University of Washington for undergraduate studies, I attended University Presbyterian Church, a nearby congregation with a vibrant college outreach. While there, my knowledge in the Lord increased through small group Bible studies and intentional participation in local ministries. I also joined a program called Deputation, through which I had the opportunity to live and work in a Honduran village for three months.

After college, I entered into a time that wove together both my corporate and my ministry callings. In my business work, I discovered willing and faithful mentors and exciting intellectual challenges. My time at HouseValues, Inc. especially helped me to develop my confidence as a person and sharpen my organizational skills. In my ministry work, I discovered formative experiences that shaped my understanding of God's call to Christian community. In particular, my experience in L'Arche, an ecumenical, faith-based community of the abled and disabled, called me into a mutual vulnerability with my brothers and sisters as we leaned on, learned from and loved one another. Out of this time, what God called forth to light in me was a desire for both intellectual challenge and personal, intentional interaction with believers in the walk of faith.

These experiences came together for me in my decision to attend Princeton Theological Seminary and begin the journey of ordination. In this time, I have discovered the graciousness of life and ministry in the church, the challenges of being a part of a broken yet redeemed community and the eternal joy in faithfully turning to God as one people. God has brought me to a place in which the desire of my heart is for a church and a ministry that embraces mutual vulnerability, mutual encouragement and mutual growth all in the name of Jesus Christ.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe that the one, triune God, in sovereign righteousness and love, creates, sustains, rules and redeems all of creation through care and providence. I believe that God's grace - divine, unmerited favor - is fundamental to all that God initiates with humanity, from creation to the incarnation to the continued sanctification of believers.

I believe that the one, triune God, created human beings in the divine image. Due to this unique fashioning, humanity is precious to God and has a special responsibility to live fully into this image through individual and corporate life. I believe that sin ruptured humanity's intimate relationship with its creator. Yet, humans can still know God because God is self-revealing and redeeming. God reveals God's self in Scripture, the Word of God written. Scripture is the unique, authoritative and inspired witness to Jesus Christ who is the Word of God made flesh. And God is most clearly revealed in Jesus Christ - God's unique son - whom God sent into the world to redeem the world.

I believe that Jesus Christ is Lord of all things in heaven and on earth and Head of the church. I believe that He was born both fully human and fully divine. Being fully human, He was able to justify all of humanity. As well, through His life and ministry on earth, He showed humanity how to live out the human-divine relationship in perfect obedience and love. Being fully divine, He was able to conquer death and rise victorious to the rule of the Kingdom of God, thereby establishing the new reality of God's redeeming and renewing love.

I believe that the Holy Spirit is the power of God in the world. The Holy Spirit was sent by God and Jesus Christ to inspire and empower humanity to do God's will. As well, the Holy Spirit was sent to gather, guide and guard the Church of Christ. Accordingly, the Holy Spirit is present in the proclamation and reception of the Word of God and in the sacraments commanded by Jesus Christ - Baptism and The Lord's Supper. These sacraments are signs and seals of God's faithfulness and a believer's incorporation into Jesus Christ. They are visible signs of the unity of the Church of Christ throughout the ages and the world and across all boundaries of race, class, gender, age and disability.

I believe that Jesus Christ will come again and that the new reality, established in His death and resurrection, will be realized in full at that time. In this new reality, God's grace, love and justice will reign complete and be the order of God's kingdom. I believe that Jesus Christ sends the Church into the world in order to be a sign of this new reality and an agent of God's reconciling love until His second coming. In accord with this divinely ordained mission, the Church is to demonstrate and proclaim the Word by loving God and loving others; living together in mutual, trusting and loving fellowship; and affirming God's eternal grace and unique saving work in the person of Jesus Christ. AMEN.

## **Susan Goodin**

### **BIOGRAPHY**

God was everywhere. I can never remember a time when I wasn't aware of God's presence. It began under the starry skies of Minnesota, on my grandparents' dairy farm. Mom and I were living with her parents while Dad served overseas. From the time I was about 6 months old until I was 2 ½, that farm was home. And signs of God's love and abundance were everywhere. And my mother and grandparents consciously, but gently, encouraged my awareness of that presence. Fishing, a trip to the garden, bringing in the cows, getting the mail, enjoying the northern lights from the vantage point of the woodpile – all were opportunities to recognize and appreciate God's presence. And faith was born.

That faith was fostered, nudged, guided and disciplined by family, friends and the church throughout my childhood. I learned of God through story and song, potluck dinners and church programs, through youth assemblies and mission trips. I saw God in the lives of those around me. They encouraged me to be myself, even when that meant leaving a church function for some quiet time. Time to converse and debate with God. To rest in God's presence. Their affirmation gave me the courage and insight to trust my own instincts about my relationship with God.

I had always had a feeling of "call," though I didn't recognize it for years. A feeling God had something special for me to learn, to do. A unique purpose for me. But that sense of call was not specific and I often forgot about it. As a young adult, I strayed from the church. Nothing dramatic. I simply quit going. I was living away from home and going through some difficult times. I felt adrift from the close relationship with God I had always known. Eventually, I asked that all-important question: "What do you want me to do?" The answer was two-fold. I reconnected with the church. And I met my husband, Bob. In those two events were the seeds for my future call to ordained ministry.

By 1978, we had moved to Portland, Oregon. I had a new church family, an incredibly nurturing community of faith. There, my call to the Ministry of Word and Sacrament became clear. They celebrated my call with me, and in the fall of 1987, I left Portland, journeying to San Francisco Theological Seminary. From there, my first call took to a small, older adult, rural church struggling to survive. There I encountered a fear-filled, hostile environment, with classic antagonists. I encountered loving, caring, seeking disciples. And learned much.

As a result of that experience, I came to acknowledge a call to intentional interim ministry. I backed into it. Others recognized it before I did. I find it fulfilling and challenging to journey with people as they explore who they are and who God's calling them to be. And then begin to live into that call as they prepare for a new pastor.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe there is only one living and true God; the God of Love. One being distinct in three persons: Father, Son, Holy Spirit. A Spirit, infinite, eternal, unchangeable. I believe that in God's being are wisdom, power, holiness, justice, goodness, and truth. I believe that all things in heaven and on earth were created by God. That they continue to exist, retain their being and are guided by God for God's own purpose. I believe God has created the world of space and time to be the sphere of his dealings with human beings. In the words of Paul: "In him we live and move and have our being."

Sin is anything we do, think or feel that alienates us from God. It is the evil in humanity that mars the image of God in which we are made. God reveals God's love in Jesus Christ by showing power in the form of a servant, wisdom in the folly of the cross, and goodness in receiving sinful humanity. In Jesus of Nazareth, true humanity was realized once and for all.

In Jesus Christ, God was reconciling the world to God's self. God became a human baby, small and vulnerable, and lived among us to fulfill the work of reconciliation. His cross and resurrection become personal crisis and present hope for all creation when the gospel is proclaimed and believed. In this experience, the Spirit brings God's forgiveness to humanity, moves believers to respond in faith, repentance, and obedience, and initiates the new life in Christ. Jesus Christ is present in the church by the power of the Holy Spirit to continue and complete his mission.

The Holy Spirit creates and renews the church as the community in which believers are reconciled to God and one another. The Spirit enables them to receive forgiveness as they forgive one another and to enjoy the peace of God as they make peace among themselves. In spite of their sin, the Spirit gives them power to become representatives of Christ and his gospel of reconciliation to all creation, peoples and nations.

The church is a community of believers of all times and places, eternal, visible and invisible. Called by God into a covenant of grace, believers experience and become a sign and symbol of that grace in the world. God's grace is experienced in the preaching of the Word and in the sacraments of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Celebrating our joy in God's grace, we are called to reach out to others, living God's love and promise of forgiveness.

There are two sacraments: baptism and the Lord's Supper. A sacrament is a sign of the covenant "I am your God, you are my people." Sacraments are a visible Word; the promises of God as a picture. Sacraments place the covenant promises in our hands in graphic bodily form.

In baptism we are regenerated, purified and renewed by God through the Holy Spirit. Christ, in his baptism, joined himself to humanity in their need and entered into his ministry of reconciliation through the power of the Holy Spirit. Christian baptism marks the receiving of the same Spirit by all Christ's people. We are received into the covenant and into the inheritance of children of God. Dying with Christ. Rising with Christ into new life.

The Lord's Supper is a feast of thanksgiving, instituted by our Lord in his last supper with his disciples. It reminds us of what God has done for us in the life, death, and resurrection of his Son, Jesus. It reminds us of whose body we have become members through baptism. And it is a foretaste of the messianic feast, that symbol of the kingdom Christ will consummate with his promised coming. As bread nourishes, sustains, and protects our bodily life, so the body of Christ is the only food to invigorate and keep alive the soul. When we behold wine set forth as a symbol of blood, we must think that such use as wine serves to the body, the same is spiritually bestowed by the blood of Christ; and the use is to foster, refresh, strengthen, and exhilarate.

# Alice Trowbridge

## BIOGRAPHY

My faith is a gift. While later in life I learned about doctrine and I wrestled with scripture, this is not how my relationship with God began. Since I was a little girl I remember feeling God's presence in creation, the untamed mystery of the Holy Spirit, and the person of Jesus Christ, whose life of service and humility has always been an inspiration. I am the fifth of six children and the first girl after four boys. I was born in Buffalo, NY, and at age four, my family moved to Westport, CT, where I spent the better part of my childhood. At age seven, shortly after my younger sister was born, my parents divorced. I attended Hotchkiss, a boarding school in CT, and there, at age 14, I met the young man I would eventually marry some 15 years later. I remember being asked what I wanted to do with my life at some point during the college application process. I remember my answer: I wanted to care for people.

I went to Occidental College in Los Angeles, CA, just outside of Pasadena, and earned a B.A. in Art History in 1993, with an emphasis on Michelangelo and the High Italian Renaissance, which subject matters were almost exclusively renderings of biblical texts. After college I returned to the East coast to NYC where I shared an apartment with three of my four older brothers and went to work at Christie's Auction House as an associate in European Decorative Arts.

After two years there and several volunteer activities at New York Hospital and tutoring a third grader in the lower east side of Manhattan, I decided to join the Peace Corps. I wanted to understand how more than half the world truly lives. I wanted to understand "suffering" and "poverty" not from news clips or from text books, but first hand. I was an agricultural extension agent for the Peace Corps in Mali, Africa, for two and a half years, and during those years the villagers and I together accomplished the building of a school, the creation of a community garden, and the establishment of a lending library, to name a few.

Following that experience I took a solo journey back home stopping off at places I had always dreamed of visiting. My time in Calcutta at Mother Teresa's Home for the Dying was the experience which had the most profound effect on me, and after those weeks volunteering at Kalighat, during a trek in the Himalayas, I knew that I wanted to attend Seminary and place my relationship with God at the foundation of all I pursue. When I returned to New York in the summer of 1998 my first stop was the admissions office at Union Theological Seminary, and I began studies that September.

Growing up our family attended church often, and we would vary congregations from Episcopal to Presbyterian to Congregational churches. In New York City our family church was Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church, and so it was natural that I would attend there and would come under care there while in school at Union Theological Seminary. It was not until my second year in seminary that I decided to pursue ordination. My third year in seminary I was married to Jeb. After graduating from Union in the spring of 2001, Jeb and I moved to Chicago, IL, where he attended Business School and I began a two year Pastoral Residency Program at Fourth Presbyterian Church funded by the Eli Lilly Endowment. I had been at Fourth for less than one week when 9/11 took place. I will never forget those moments as I watched the leadership of that congregation respond to the news, and the profound role of the institution of the church during that crisis and in the days and months that followed.

After the Pastoral Residency Program, I was called as Associate Pastor for Youth and Family at Kenilworth Union Church in Kenilworth, IL, and there I was ordained in the fall of 2003 two weeks before our first daughter was born. In the summer of 2004 I accepted a call to return to Fourth Presbyterian Church as Associate Pastor for Congregational Life. In 2006, after our second daughter was born, I switched over to Congregational Care, which I continued until I resigned from Fourth Church in May, 2010, three months after our third daughter was born. In July, our family moved to Queensbury, NY, for my husband's work with the Tribune Company, and since then I have been blessed to be home with our three girls for this very precious season in life, and for that I am grateful beyond words.

## STATEMENT OF FAITH

I believe in one God, creator of heaven and earth, who caused the mountains to rise and hemmed in the sea, and by whose hand the stars and the moon have been established. When I consider the beauty of creation—the sight of an ancient tree standing in quiet faithfulness, the gentle fragrance of a lily, the scene of a field of wildflowers—a patchwork masterpiece, or the bird whose song graces the new day with purity and hope, who are we humans that God is mindful of us, mortals that God cares for us? (Psalm 8) This is a profound mystery which lies at the heart of my faith life, and the perspective from which I see my place in the world.

And yet, God loves us with a love that will never let us go. Despite our casual and too often careless way we lead our lives, falling prey to lesser instincts which turn us away from God instead of seeking first God's will, God loves us, cherishes us, forgives us, and invites us to be in relationship. Like a mother who will not forsake her nursing child, like a father who runs to welcome the prodigal home, God loves us still (A Brief Statement of Faith).

God sent his only son Jesus Christ, to live in this world, to show us how to be human, to love, to laugh, to experience the great joys and to confront the deep sorrows of the human condition, and to model for us a life of service, humility, sacrifice, love, justice, and peace. He lived as one of us, yet being fully human and fully divine, Jesus was free from sin. In Christ we have a redeemer, one who, by his life, death, and resurrection, has freed us from ourselves and our sinful ways, who has broken the power of sin and death and restored us to eternal life. Jesus befriended outcasts, those whom society shunned and wanted to exclude, healed the sick, comforted the afflicted, clothed the naked, and gave hope to the oppressed. In Jesus' life we can see God's will for us to live a just and peaceful life, respecting all God's children.

I believe the church is established by God through Christ for the faithful to gather, to hear the scripture read and the word proclaimed, to ponder God's word for our world today, to ask difficult questions, to challenge norms, to wrestle with views other than our own and to continually refresh our own perspectives lest we become stagnant and decide we hold the corner on the truth. In the community of the faithful, through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, the communion of the Holy Spirit, we grow to trust in one God, the holy one of Israel, who in life and in death, is our strength and our guide. In the church we are to learn from one another, and from God, and from the communion of the saints. In the church we are renewed by the Holy Spirit present in the waters of Baptism and at the Lord's Supper. We are claimed in our Baptism as Christ's own, and we are called to be living members of the body of Christ, to eat the bread of life and to drink from the cup of salvation so that we may strive to approach our daily lives with gratitude and deep joy, irrespective of circumstance. Through these sacraments, we are given sustenance and we are restored for the journey of faith so that, day to day, we can be vehicles for God's love and hope in a broken world.

God gave us the Holy Spirit to be our guide, to lead us onward in the complexities of our time with reverence for our heritage, for all the faithful throughout the ages from Abraham and Sarah to the present day, who have heard the stirrings of the spirit and have responded in faithfulness, for these ancestors of our faith on whose shoulders we rise and whose courage and sacrifice give us strength to carry onward in the face of life's struggles. And God also gave us the Holy Spirit to be our guide and to look with reverence for what is yet to come, to approach the future with hope, to hold on to the good, to trust God with our lives, as we seek to do our part to build God's kingdom, and to wait in hope for that kingdom to come, and to participate with all our heart, strength, mind, and will to further God's kingdom each day we are blessed with the gift of life.

# COUNCIL REPORT

## The following are presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. The Council met on November 9 and December 14, 2010, and on January 11, 2011. The next meeting of Council will be at 2:00 p.m. on February 8, 2011, at the West End PC in Albany.
2. Council adopted the following procedure for consideration of the proposed new Form of Government (nFOG) (Amendment 10-1) by Presbytery in January:
  - a. Send a separate e-mail to all minister members and clerks of session with links to the many resources that are available on the internet. This will be done by Presbytery staff by the end of December. Links will include both pros and cons. Offer to send copies of the proposed amendment to those who want a copy, but also note that it is available on-line. Urge all ministers to inform themselves and their elder commissioners about nFOG prior to the January 29, 2011, meeting.
  - b. Include copies of some relevant documents on nFOG in the pre-meeting packet.
  - c. Show the PC(USA) power point presentation about nFOG and ask Joyce Brewer (Albany Presbytery elder commissioner to 219<sup>th</sup> GA who served on the nFOG committee) to make introductory remarks during the morning portion of the January 29 meeting. Follow this with one or two small groups to provide opportunities for conversation and questions and answers about nFOG. Other small group conversation opportunities will also be scheduled for the morning time on January 29; topics yet to be determined.
  - d. Docket vote on the proposed amendment for the afternoon portion of the meeting.
3. Council created a task force to introduce “Flipping the Presbytery” to congregations, sessions, and Presbytery commissioners and recruited the following to serve on the task force: Chris Urig, Frances Rosenau, Shannon Meacham, Peter McKinney, Kathy Gorman-Coombs, and Chris Garrison. Paul convened the first meeting of the task force on January 17, 2011. Kirianne Riehl also attended that meeting. The task force decided to rotate leadership among its members.
4. Council appointed the following to serve on a task force to review Presbytery’s “Graceful Separation” process and bring recommendations to COM and then to a future Council meeting on how to proceed: Jerry McKinney, David Bennett, Rich Patterson, Chris Garrison, and Tom Gregg.
5. Upon invitation from Council, either Glenn Leupold or Corlin Bauhofer will serve as representatives from the Personnel Committee to Council with voice but no vote for a year. The effectiveness of this arrangement will be evaluated in 6 months to see if Council wants to seek approval for a change in the Standing Rules to make this arrangement permanent.
6. GA Vice-Moderator Landon Whitsitt will visit Albany Presbytery from September 17 to 21, 2011. He will be available to preach upon invitation from a church in the Presbytery on September 18 and will be present at the Presbytery meeting on September 20.
7. Several people will take digital photographs of minister members of Presbytery at the January 29 meeting in order to create a pictorial directory.
8. David Moore has agreed to serve as a representative from Albany Presbytery to participate in a discussion with the Middle Governing Body Commission of GA about the future existence of synods.
9. Council acted to refer to COM a request from Lauren Grogan (wife of minister member Michael Plank) for \$300 in financial assistance to attend the PC(USA)’s “Next Church” Conference with Michael in Indianapolis at the end of February 2011.
10. Council elected Donna Frischknecht to serve on the Mission Review Committee, Class of 2013.
11. Council approved a request from the Fair Trade Coalition of Ballston Spa to have display space at each stated meeting of Presbytery if the way be clear and there is space available at the host church.
12. Council approved a request from Bonnie Orth to display a quilt at the January stated meeting.

13. Council agreed by consensus that Presbyterian Women may pass out flyers on their activities and Tom Gregg may have a table to display books from his and other ministers' libraries for others to review and take if they wish at the January 29 meeting.

**The following are presented for Presbytery action under the consent agenda:**

Nothing.

**The following are presented for Presbytery action:**

1. Council recommends approval of the Proposed Amendment 10-1 to the Constitution – Part 1 of 3 to adopt new Foundations of Presbyterian Polity and Form of Government – commonly referred to as **nFOG** and offers the following RATIONALE: By specifying broad principles of governance as constitutions do, rather than specific rules and practices as procedures manuals do, the new Form of Government allows sessions, presbyteries, synods, and the General Assembly to adapt practices, procedures, and structures to the particular needs of their mission contexts. The nFOG would allow for more flexibility and creativity in mission and governance.

## TRUSTEES REPORT

***Whereas:***

Mayor Bryan Stratton of Schenectady has sent a letter to all the churches in town asking for contributions in lieu of taxes, at \$10 per curb foot;  
and the advice from the General Assembly to churches has been to decline to make contributions in lieu of taxes;  
and churches traditionally contribute to the well-being of the community through “in-kind” contributions of services, programs and facilities;  
and tax-exemption for churches and religious bodies is part of the separation of church and state;

***Therefore:***

The Board of Trustees *recommends* that the Presbytery of Albany request of the sessions of its churches lists of those free services, programs or uses of facilities that contribute to the well-being of the community in which they are located; and that such lists be sent to the Board of Trustees at the Presbytery Office by March 1, 2011.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Class of 2013: Alice Trowbridge (if the way be clear)

Rural and Migrant Ministry Board  
Michael Plank

Board of Trustees  
Class of 2013: Viki Brooks

Nominating Committee  
Class of 2013: Michael Burkley

Mission Review Committee  
Class of 2013: Donna Frischknecht