

STATED MEETING OF ALBANY PRESBYTERY



Tuesday, April 12, 2011

Registration and Fellowship begin at 3:00 p.m.

**Call to Worship and Business Meeting
begin at 4:00 p.m.**

Meal Tickets for Supper are \$6 per person

Please make checks payable to: United Church of Greenwich
Supper will be served at Centenary Methodist Church (about 200 yards away).
The menu is Pulled Pork and Cole Slaw, served family style
Presbyters with dietary restrictions are invited to bring their own supper

Hosted by The United Church of Greenwich

37 Salem Street, Greenwich, NY 12834

Telephone: 692-7746 website: <http://www.unitedchurch12834.org/>

DIRECTIONS:

From Albany/Troy: Take **NY-40 N** to Greenwich. At the traffic circle, continue straight on **NY-29 E** (Main St) 1.2 miles into the center of town. Take a left on Church St. to park at Bottskill Baptist Church at the end of Church St., or continue on Main St. to the stoplight, take a left then bear immediately right on Salem St. to drop your passengers in front of the United Church.

From I-87 and points North, South and West: Exit the Northway at Saratoga exit 15. Follow **NY-50 N / NY-29 Truck E to Weibel Ave**, take a right and then a left, following **NY-29 E** into Greenwich. At the traffic circle, continue straight on **NY-29 E** (Main St) 1.2 miles into the center of town. Take a left on Church St. to park at Bottskill Baptist Church at the end of Church St., or continue on Main St. to the stoplight, take a left then bear immediately right on Salem St. to drop your passengers in front of the United Church.

PARKING:

Parking is around the corner at Bottskill Baptist Church. Limited handicap parking is available at the United Church. A shuttle is available if the weather is inclement, or for those needing assistance.

CHILD CARE is provided without cost to you. It is, however, essential that you make a reservation for your child. Please call the church office at 692-7746 later than Friday, April 8, giving number of children, ages and any special needs. If your plans change after that date, please call to cancel the reservation or to ask if space is available. In the interest of the health of all children and their families who are brought for childcare during Presbytery meetings, please do not bring your child if he or she is showing signs of illness.

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.

3:15 p.m. Gathering and Registration

We Gather in God's Name

4:00 p.m. **We Worship God Together** – Myron Nichols Memorial

4:10 p.m. Call to Order Kirianne Riehl, Moderator

Announcements

Greetings from Host Church

We Present our Offerings of Mission and Ministry

Report of the Stated Clerk [p. 3] Dan Rogers

Compile Roll, Seat Corresponding Members (Allison Seed, Heartland Presbytery)

Welcome First- Time Attendees

Approval of Meeting Docket

Approval of Minutes of January 29, 2011, Stated Meeting as distributed

Adoption of the Consent Agenda – Consent items are included in the following

committee reports: Stated Clerk [p. 4]; COM [p. 7]

4:25 p.m. General Presbyter Report Cass Shaw

4:35 p.m. Board of Pensions Representative Report Allison Seed

4:40 p.m. Presentation on the Confession of Belhar Rev. Harold Delhagen(RCA)

5:20 p.m. Council Report – [p. 5] Paul Randall

- Budget and Finance Committee 2010 Year End Report (Bill Ramage)

- September Presbytery Meeting/Retreat

- “Flipping the Presbytery” update report

5:30 p.m. Committee on Ministry (COM) Report [p. 7] Tom Gregg

5:40 p.m. Board of Trustees Report [p. 8] Don Stake/Gale Bury

6:00 p.m. **We Share God's Good Gifts** – Dinner

7:00 p.m. **We Worship God Together** – with drummers and sermon by the Rev. Delhagen

We Continue our Offerings of Mission and Ministry

7:40 p.m. Speak Out (Opportunity to express your views in 1 minute or less)

7:50 p.m. Debate and vote on Confession of Belhar

8:10 p.m. Report from Mission Review Committee David Moore

8:15 p.m. Unfinished Business / New Business / Miscellaneous Business

8:30 p.m. **We Worship God Together** – Prayers of the People and Celebration of Lord's Supper

8:45 p.m. **We Go Out in God's Name and Adjourn as the Church Sent Into the World**

Stated Clerk Report – Pre-Meeting Packet for April 12, 2011

The following is presented for information:

1. The United Church of Cohoes will host the next stated presbytery meeting on Saturday, June 11, 2011, beginning at 9:30 a.m.
2. The following are the remaining Presbytery stated meeting dates for 2011:

Tuesday – September 20 at 4:00 p.m. (subject to change – see Council Report)
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. In accord with Book of Order G-11.0101b, it is reported that as of January 29, 2011, there were 98 active, resident minister members of Albany Presbytery. As of the same date, the total number of elders with voting privileges was 81 as follows:
 - a. The number of elders that the 69 churches of Albany Presbytery may send to Presbytery meetings as commissioners is 70 (one per church plus one additional elder for Glens Falls, First Church whose membership exceeds 500.)
 - b. The Standing Rules of Albany Presbytery also give vote at Presbytery meetings to one Commissioned Lay Pastor (hospital chaplain) and 10 elders who are members of Council, serve as Stated Clerk, or chair a committee or task force for a total of 11 elders.

This means there is an imbalance of active, resident ministers over elder commissioners of 17. This imbalance is to be redressed by the Presbytery. See recommendation below under Consent Agenda items.

4. Orientation/Training for New Clerks of Session to be followed by Peer Reviews of Minutes by Clerks of Session have been scheduled for the following times and locations:

Saturday morning, May 14, 2011, at the First Presbyterian Church in Glens Falls
Saturday morning, May 21, 2011, at the Presbytery Office in Troy
Wednesday afternoon and evening, May 25, 2011, at the Amsterdam United Church

Detailed information will be forthcoming in letters directly to all clerks of session of churches in the Presbytery.

5. The following is reported In accordance with Presbytery policy to authorize the Stated Clerk to approve one-time requests from ministers for permission to either labor within the bounds or to labor outside the bounds of Albany Presbytery and to report these to Presbytery: Permission was granted to the Rev. John McAuley to labor outside the bounds to perform a wedding in Maine on May 14, 2011.
6. The Troy, First United church office has graciously allowed the Albany Presbytery office to use their FAX machine if and when a church wants to use that medium for communications. The FAX machine is available from 9:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. on Mondays through Thursdays. The FAX number is 518-266-9483.
7. A summary of 2010 membership statistics for Albany Presbytery as reported by congregations follows:

Active Members as of December 31, 2009 ----- 7,821

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Gains | |
| Profession 17 and under | 67 |
| Profession 18 and over | 153 |
| Certificate | 47 |
| Other | 25 |
| TOTAL GAINS | 292 |
| Losses | |
| Certificate | 315 |
| Death | 126 |
| Other | 310 |
| TOTAL LOSSES | 751 |

Active Members as of December 31, 2010 ----- 7,362

| | |
|---|--------------|
| Average Weekly Church Attendance | 4,010 |
| Adult Baptisms | 157 |
| Infant/Children Baptisms | 111 |

8. The Moderator intends to implement the following procedure for the debate of Amendment 10-2 related to addition of the Confession of Belhar to The Book of Confessions at the April 12, 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. Click here for a link to the Belhar Confession http://www.albanypresbytery.org/ga_amend.html Copies of the amendment will be available for distribution at the meeting.

The following is presented for action by Presbytery under the Consent Agenda:

1. RECOMMEND that as required by G-11.0101b, the minister-elder imbalance of 17 for 2011 be redressed by inviting churches of the Presbytery to send one additional elder commissioner to Presbytery meetings, with the churches to be determined on a random rotation basis, beginning with the June 11, 2011, Stated Meeting and continuing through the first stated meeting in 2012. The next 17 churches in the random rotation that began in 1986 and that has been modified as necessary to accommodate church mergers, dismissals, and dissolutions since then are:

| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Albany – Westminster | Mechanicville |
| Amsterdam | New Scotland |
| Cambridge | Poultney |
| Gloversville | Putnam |
| Granville | Rensselaerville |
| Hamilton Union | Salem |
| Jewett | Schenectady – Korean. |
| Lake George – Caldwell | Schoharie |
| Malta | |

2. RECOMMEND that the Rev. Paul Hopwood, Honorably Retired, be transferred to the Presbytery of the James at his request. The COM of the Presbytery of the James has also acted to request this transfer.

The following is presented for action by Presbytery:

In accordance with G-8.0502, the Session of the Oakwood Presbyterian Church requests permission to lease its Sanctuary to a recording studio (Collar City Sound) for recording sessions at a nominal fee.

Council Report

The following are presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. The Council met on February 8 and March 8, 2011. The next meeting of Council will be at 2:00 p.m. on May 10, 2011, at the West End PC in Albany.
2. Council welcomed Elder Peter McKinney who has replaced the Rev. Donna Frischknecht as Mission Review Committee Representative to Council.
3. Council received the resignation of Elder Jim Ferris as Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee and as Representative to Council from that committee. No replacements have been identified for Jim for either of these leadership positions.
4. Council ELECTED the Rev. Elaine Woroby, Elder Sandra Hann (Malta), and the Rev. John Barclay (if the way be clear) to serve on the Presbytery Committee on Nominations.
5. Council ELECTED Elder Barbara Sperry (Northville) to serve on the Personnel Committee.
6. Council APPROVED a New Initiatives Funding Request from the First Presbyterian Church of Warrensburg for \$2,650 to support three community dinners for about 150 people at each dinner to be held on March 8, June 8, and September 8, 2011.
7. Council ACTED to deny a New Initiatives Funding Request from the SUNYA Protestant Campus Ministry for \$1,000 for their peer ministry program because it is not a new initiative program.
8. Council completed its 2012 budget requests. Council ACTED to create a small group consisting of Glenn Leupold (Personnel), Tom Gregg (COM), Bill Ramage (Finance Manager), and David Moore (Budget and Finance) to come to the next Council meeting in May with several alternatives and related tactics and implications for the future use of funds in the Ecclesiastical Budget that may result from capping per capita.
9. Council noted that the Youth of Albany Presbytery and the Guatemala Task Forces are interacting to prepare for and promote a mission trip for youth to Guatemala in 2012.

10. Council concurred with Kirianne Riehl's proposal to post the Pictorial Directory on line where access would be free and to request payment of about \$4.00 for a hard copy. Directory will include ministers and elder commissioners.
11. Council ACTED to restrict camp scholarships to camps that are run by denominations which are in correspondence with the PC(USA). Accordingly, Council ACTED to deny applications for scholarships for campers to attend a camp run by Young Life, a parachurch organization.
12. David Moore and Ray Greenhill will serve as representatives from Albany Presbytery to participate in a discussion with the Middle Governing Body Commission of GA about the future existence of synods.
13. Council ACTED to provide funding of about \$1,200 from Budget Item 5126, "Flipping the Presbytery" for dinner and informal conversation on current trends in Biblical studies with Dr. Kathie Sakenfeld from Princeton Theological Seminary on April 7, 2011, for women Ministers of Word and Sacrament at a local hotel. Also, Council ACTED to provide funding of up to \$1,800 (up to six events at about \$300 per event beginning in the spring of 2011) from Budget Item 5126 to support catered dinner conversations at several sites geographically around the presbytery that would gather teams of elders together to share needs, hopes, best practices, etc.
14. Council ACTED to approve reimbursing expenses up to \$600 from Item 5112 (Training and Conferences) to the Rev. Shannon Meachem to attend a New Church Development conference in the summer with the expectation that she will make a report on the conference and will be available to interact with others from Presbytery on the conference.
15. The following is the Statement of Purpose for the "Flipping the Presbytery" Task Force:

"We are a think tank on behalf of Presbytery Council in order to guide them towards "flipping" the Presbytery from a primarily regulatory body to a missional body. In order to help the Presbytery become the most fruitful, missional "learning community" it can be, we need to:

- a. Explore and recommend how Presbytery meetings, Moveable Feast events, and the ministry and focus of staff members can be worthwhile and compelling as missional learning communities;
- b. Invite the participation of Presbytery committees, boards, task forces, Presbyterian Women, etc. in shaping and living out the above vision;
- c. Challenge the Presbytery to lead by example as we support sessions in equipping their congregations to be "effective missional bodies"

The following is presented for Presbytery action:

Council ACTED to recommend to Presbytery that the September 20, 2011, stated meeting be expanded to be a multi-day (2-3 days) retreat at the Silver Bay Conference Center beginning on either September 18 or September 19. Details (length of meeting/retreat, program, role of GA

Vice Moderator Whitsitt, costs, etc.) are to be worked out by a small group appointed by Vice Moderator Paul Randall and reported to Council in May. Additional details will be reported to Presbytery no later than the June 11, 2011, Stated Meeting. Partial funding support will come from Budget Item 5126, "Flipping the Presbytery".

Committee on Ministry Report

The following items are presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. COM met on February 9, March 2, and March 30, 2011. Meeting on March 30 was with the Board of Trustees.
2. ACTED to approve paying for the registration to the CRTC course on "The Church and Its Money" for up to three persons per church that failed to pay its per capita in full for 2010 and for up to one person for each other church in the Presbytery. ACTED to approve paying for partial registration to the "Money Follows Mission" Stewardship Conference for one person per church. Necessary funds will be taken from Reserve Account #9010, Church Reconciliation Fund.
3. ACTED to allow the Rev. Laura Mitchell to defer participation in EMI for one year since she is working as a chaplain at Albany Medical Center and is not serving in a congregation.
4. ACTED to approve the request from the Stillwater Church session for the Rev. Lynne Hardy (Northern New England Presbytery) to labor within the bounds to supply the pulpit for five Sundays in March and April, 2011.
5. ACTED to recommend that Council approve the use of Item 5112, Committee Training Expenses, to fund training for the response team identified in Sexual Misconduct & Abuse – Policy and Procedure.
6. SENT representatives (Cass Shaw, Tom Gregg, and Chandlee Gill) to a meeting of CPM, COM, and youth leaders from the presbyteries in the Upstate (FAB 5) PPG of the Synod of the Northeast in Utica on March 12, 2011, to discuss opportunities for funding resources.

The following recommendations are presented as part of the Presbytery Consent

Agenda:

1. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery pay the full costs for the third year of EMI for the Rev. Robert Goodin. Bob is not currently serving a church, but should he have a contract before EMI meets, he would be asked to pay the individual share. Funds will be taken from Reserve Account #9009, Pensions & Ministerial Assistance Fund.
2. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve extension of the worship leadership contract between the East Hebron Church session and Bill Daigle for 1 year starting February 9,

2011. Bill Daigle is serving essentially as a temporary supply and has been advised that he needs to take Boundary Awareness training.

3. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve temporary extension of the current Designated Pastor contract between the Malta Congregation and the Rev. Pam Woodman until June 11, 2011. Rationale: The congregation needs time to work out the terms of call for an installed pastoral position.
4. RECOMMENDS that Presbytery approve the request of the Rev. Richard Otty to be a Member- At-Large as he actively seeks a new call. His contract as Designated Pastor of the State Street Church in Schenectady ended on February 15, 2011.

The following recommendations are presented for Presbytery discussion and action:

1. RECOMMENDS that Oakwood Presbyterian Church's total per capita of \$1,335.50 be waived for 2011. Rationale: The Oakwood Church session informed COM in February that they have paid their mission pledge in full for 2010 but are unable to meet the second half of their per capita obligation for 2010. Subsequently in March the Oakwood session did in fact pay the second half of their per capita obligation for 2010. The Oakwood congregation will be dissolved on June 30, 2011. COM believes that given the context and their financial situation their request for a waiver for 2011 be honored. See related recommendation from the Board of Trustees.
2. RECOMMENDS that if the way be clear and the congregation of the Schoharie Church so requests, to approve granting the Pastor Emeritus status to the Rev. Robert Smith.

Board of Trustees Report – Pre-Meeting Packet for April 12, 2011

The following recommendations are presented for Presbytery discussion and action:

1. Please see the attached Agreement between the Trustees of the Presbytery of Albany and the Jermain Memorial Ecumenical Presbyterian Church. On motion and second, the Board voted at its meeting on March 30, 2011, to authorize Co-President Rev. Donald Stake to sign the Agreement as amended and to recommend that Presbytery approve the Agreement at its April 12, 2011, Stated Meeting. (See contingency included in Paragraph 14 of the Agreement.) For the record, the amendment was to note on page 1 that Jeanne T. Kippen was an elder of the Jermain Memorial Presbyterian Church, not a trustee. The Agreement has been signed with the amendment initialed by the Rev. Stake and has been sent to the Presbytery's attorney, Carolyn Snyder Lemmon.
2. The Board of Trustees acted to recommend to the Presbytery approval of the request from the Session of the Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church to further postpone the dissolution date for the congregation from June 30, 2011, until December 31, 2011, and to allow the current officers to continue to serve until that later date so that they may conclude their church business which includes developing their Mission Legacy.