

**PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY**  
**TWO HUNDRED EIGHTIETH STATED MEETING**

The United Church, Greenwich, NY

April 12, 2011

**WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME / WE WORSHIP AND PREPARE TO SERVE GOD**

The Presbytery of Albany met in stated session on Tuesday, April 12, 2011, at The United Church, Greenwich, NY. The Rev. Kirianne Riehl, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the church Sanctuary. The meeting began with Worship and an opening prayer by the Moderator.

The Presbytery paused for a Memorial Moment to remember the life and ministry of the Rev. Dr. Albert Myron Nichols who had been a member of Albany Presbytery since 2003 and who died on March 6, 2011. The following was included in the Meeting Packet:

*The Rev. Myron Nichols was born on October 17, 1914 in Creston, Iowa. He graduated from UCLA (1936) with a degree in business economics, and a Bachelor of Divinity from the San Francisco Theological Seminary (1940). He was honored with a Doctor of Divinity degree by Occidental College in Los Angeles in 1952.*

*Ordained in 1940, Rev. Nichols was the founding pastor of the North Hollywood (CA) Presbyterian Church (1940-43), Associate Pastor/Church Administrator of the Pasadena (CA) Presbyterian Church (1943-57), and Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Pendleton, OR (1957-82). Upon retirement, he continued to serve as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Eastern Oregon (1976 -1999). He and his wife Phyllis moved to Niskayuna in 2001. He transferred his membership to Albany Presbytery in 2003 and attended Presbytery meetings on occasion. Myron worshipped regularly at Union Presbyterian Church in Schenectady where a memorial service was held on March 17, 2011.*

*Nationally he served in various Boards of the Presbyterian Church (USA). For many years Rev. Nichols served as Assistant Stated Clerk of the General Assembly under Eugene Carson Blake.*

*In church related service, Rev. Myron Nichols served as a Founding Member of the Board of Trustees of Whittier California Community Presbyterian Hospital (1954-57). He was also a member of the Board of Trustees of San Francisco Theological Seminary (1963-84) and was a Life Trustee of Lewis & Clark College in Portland, OR. His interest in health also led to his appointment by the Governor of Oregon to the State of Oregon Health Council (1985-88) and to the State of Oregon Trauma Board (1987-91).*

**GREETINGS FROM THE HOST CHURCH**

Elder Chris Fitz of The United Church of Greenwich greeted and welcomed the Presbytery and gave directions for the day. He noted that several sister churches in Greenwich are assisting them by providing parking spaces (Bottskill Baptist Church) and a dining hall (Centenary Methodist Church) in which dinner will be served.

**WE PRESENT OUR OFFERINGS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY**

The roll was compiled. Stated Clerk Elder H. Daniel Rogers announced a quorum was present and noted the number of those from whom he had received requests to be excused and those who need to arrive late or leave early. Voting delegates at the meeting included 53 ministers of Word and Sacrament, and 38 Elders: 32 Elders representing 29 Congregations, and 6 who are members of the Presbytery Council or chair committees or task forces. An additional 23 people signed in as visitors.

Those attending their first Presbytery Meeting were introduced and welcomed.

### MINISTERS ENROLLED

John Barclay	Larry Greenwold	Laura Lovell Mitchell	Rob Rose
David Bennett	Tom Gregg	David Moore	Frances Wattman
Ted Brothers, HR	Lucy Harris	Mary-Lynn Morrison	Rosenau
Michael Burkley	Rupert Harris, HR	Shirley Mosholder, HR	Nadeem Sadiq
Kathleen Chesnut	Harry Heintz	Bonnie Orth	Cass Shaw
Cheryl Colt	Rich Hoffman	Rick Otty	Al Siegel, HR
Timothy Coombs	Earl Johnson	Jeff Palmer	David Simmons, HR
Patricia Davies	Kate Kotfila	Rich Patterson	Don Stake, HR
Larry Deys	Miriam Lawrence	Stewart Pattison	Bebb Wheeler Stone
Chris Garrison	Leupold	Cheryl Peaslee	Jim Thompson, HR
Robert Goodin	Alexandra Lusak, HR	Jackie Pinkowski	Lois Wolff, HR
Susan Goodin	Roland "Mac" McDonald	Michael Plank	Pam Woodman
Kathy Gorman-Coombs	David McMillan, HR	Paul Randall, HR	Elaine Woroby
Robin Greene	Shannon Meacham	Kirianne Riehl	

### MINISTERS EXCUSED OR HONORABLY RETIRED

Rolf Ahlers	Barbara Florysak, HR	Jim Miller, HR	Katy Stenta
Ken Applegate	Robert Garvin, HR	Peg Miller, HR	Charles Stratton, HR
Alan Brokaw, HR	Doug Gray, HR	Ed Morren, HR	Helenmarie Sunkenberg,
Viki Brooks	Scott Hicks, HR	James Mosher, HR	HR
Holly Cameron	Rich Hoffman	Hugh Nevin, HR	Dick Symes, HR
Bob Criswell, HR	Doug Holmes	Harvey Noordsy, HR	Nick TeBordo
Marsha Cutting, HR	Beth Illingworth	Elizabeth O'Connor	Greg Town
Larry Deys	Stark Jones, HR	Tom Parsons, HR	Rebecca Town
Lois Dodge, HR	Vincent Kumjian, HR	Mary Jo Pattison	Ali Trowbridge
William Dodge, HR	Bob Lamar, HR	Don Pepper, HR	Danny Wheeler, HR
Peter Durkee, HR	Dennis Maher, HR	William Rambo, HR	Mary Woodman
Donna Elia	Linda Martin	Sam Shinn, HR	
Leif Erickson, HR	Jerry McKinney	Joe Shook, HR	
Eric Fagans, HR	Bruce Miller, HR	Robert Smith, HR	

### MINISTERS ABSENT

John Aldridge	Kathi Jones	John McAuley	Kathryn Shaffer
Steven Cronn	Ruth Kuo	David Park	Allen Siebold
James C. Davis	Glenn Leupold	Susan Rambo	Susan Strang
John "Jay" Ekman	Andy Little	Jim Resiner	
Donna Frischknecht	Bert Mayne	Hwa Sung Ryu	

### MINISTERS LIVING OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS (EXCUSED)

Fergus Cochran, HR	Albert Newman, HR	Jane Watt, HR
Rick Hill	Paul Wilson, HR	

## CLP OR ELDERS ON COUNCIL OR CHAIRING COMMITTEES OR TASK FORCES

Corlin Bauhofer (CLP - Excused)	Gloria Ghirarduzzi (Glens Falls First)	Irving Smith, Jr. (Absent)
Gale Bury (Absent)	Don Hyman (Excused)	Sal Sceccitano
Diane Calvanese	Cara Molyneaux	
Barbara Cervenka	H. Daniel Rogers	

## CONGREGATIONS REPRESENTED BY ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Albany, First	Carolyn Snyder Lemmon	Loudonville	Elsie Jean Rew
Albany, West End	Arden Leach	Malta	Sandy Hann
Brunswick	Nicole Campbell	New Scotland	Homer Warner
Cambridge	Grace Campbell	Northville	Barbara Sperry
Charlton Freehold	Ted Eighmie	Schenectady, Union	Liz Mastrianni
Corinth	William Fuller	Shushan	Carol Brownell
Delmar	Lois B. Hessberg	Spencertown	Lynn Brown
Glens Falls Chapel	Carol Henderson	Stephentown	Mary Schnyer
Greenwich	Christopher Fitz	Tribes Hill	Julie Robbins
Guilderland	Marian Nitsky	Troy, FUPC	Karen Harpe
Hoosick Falls	Elaine Sprunger	Troy, Oakwood	Linda O'Malley
Hudson Falls	Pat Barron	Troy, Third	Jerry Whitman
Hudson Falls	Sue Amiecinski	West Charlton	Frederick Lachtrupp
Johnstown	Ruth Carey	West Charlton	John King
Lake George, Bay Road	Jan Kenyon	West Hebron	Don Campbell
Lake Luzerne	Joyce McKnight	West Hebron	Meg Southerland

## CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED BY ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Albany, New	East Hebron	Menands	Schenectady, State
Covenant	Esperance	Poultney	Street
Albany, Roessville	Gloversville	Putnam Station	Schoharie
Albany, Westminster	Granville	Rensselaer	Scotia
Amsterdam	Hudson	Rensselaerville	Stillwater
Ballston Spa	Jewett	Salem	Valatie
Breakabeen-North	Lake George,	Saratoga	Warrensburg
Blenheim	Caldwell	Schaghticoke	Waterford
Broadalbin	Lansingburgh	Schenectady, Christ's	Watervliet, First
Carlisle	Mayfield	Church of the Hills	West Galway
Cohoes	Mechanicville	Schenectady, Korean	Whitehall

## STATED CLERK'S REPORT

1. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote without objection to seat the Rev. Dr. Allison Seed (Heartland Presbytery) as a Corresponding Member.
2. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote without objection to approve the docket for the meeting as distributed with the pre-meeting packet. The Stated Clerk reported that two items related to creation of a Peace Makers Task Force have been submitted and will be considered under New Business at the end of the meeting.
3. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote without objection to approve the minutes of the January 29, 2011, Stated Meeting as distributed.

4. The Stated Clerk moved, and it was seconded, that the items on the consent agenda in the Stated Clerk's Report and the Committee on Ministry (COM) Report be approved. The Moderator asked if any presbyter requested any item on the consent agenda be removed. There were none. All items on the consent agenda were **APPROVED** by a unanimous voice vote. These items are recorded under the relevant committee's section of these minutes.

5. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote without objection to grant permission as required by G-8.0502 and as requested by the Session of the Oakwood Presbyterian Church to lease its Sanctuary to a recording studio (Collar City Sound) for recording sessions at a nominal fee.

**The following were 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 below)  
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. One of the responsibilities of the Presbytery is as follows from the Book of Order:

*G-11.0103n. ... to find in order, approve, and record in the presbytery minutes the full terms of all calls, and changes of calls approved by the presbytery.*

COM is charged with reviewing changes in terms of call each year and recommending to Presbytery actions related thereto. As of April 7, 2011, the Stated Clerk has received changes in terms of call for 2011 for 21 of the ministers who are in called, installed positions in churches in Albany Presbytery. **This leaves 21 ministers for whom no report has been received.** Even if there are no changes in terms of call from 2010 to 2011, some report to that effect needs to be submitted. Normally COM reviews the changes in terms of call at its April and May meetings and brings a report and recommendations to Presbytery at the June stated meeting. The Stated Clerk has a list of names of installed pastors for whom no reports of changes in terms of call have been submitted for 2011. Ministers and clerks of session may check with him if there are any questions about this. Please help COM do its job and if you are a minister in a called, installed position, please make sure the requested change in terms of call report has been submitted for 2011.

7. As of April 7, 2011, the **Albany Presbytery Supplemental Session Report** has been received by the Stated Clerk from 44 of the 69 churches in Albany Presbytery. That leaves 25 churches yet to be heard from! While the requested deadline for submitting this report was February 23, 2011, it is not too late. Please try to get these missing reports in as soon as possible. The information contained in these reports is used by several Presbytery committees, and it is most helpful if the information is as complete as possible.

8. Many thanks to the clerks of session for updating their statistical reports electronically with the PC(USA) in Louisville in January and February. While it may seem like the reports are to the national church, they are actually to and for the benefit of the Presbytery, but received and summarized by the national church. Updated information was provided by all but three churches in the Presbytery, and the membership totals that resulted from the reports are included in the Stated Clerk Report in the Premeeting Packet.

9. A summary of 2010 membership statistics for Albany Presbytery as reported by congregations follows (see Appendix for additional statistics):

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

Gains	
Profession 17 and under	67
Profession 18 and over	153
Certificate	47
Other	25
<b>TOTAL GAINS</b>	<b>292</b>
Losses	
Certificate	315
Death	126
Other	310
<b>TOTAL LOSSES</b>	<b>751</b>

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

<b>Average Weekly Church Attendance</b>	<b>4,010</b>
<b>Adult Baptisms</b>	<b>39</b>
<b>Infant/Children Baptisms</b>	<b>111</b>

**The following were presented for action by Presbytery under the Consent Agenda and were APPROVED:**

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

**GENERAL PRESBYTER’S REPORT**

General Presbyter Cass Shaw shared thoughts on the importance of improving the support of and interaction with congregations in Albany Presbytery as a means of trying to alleviate a sense of chronic anxiety among many. Rather than spending a lot of time dealing with crises, it is important to seek ways to support life-giving efforts.

**BOARD OF PENSIONS REPORT**

The Rev. Dr. Allison Seed, Regional Representative from the Board of Pensions for the Synod of the Northeast reported on programs available from the Board. She highlighted the impact of the annual Christmas Offering on providing additional funds to support pension programs. She noted the luncheon meeting with retired ministers and surviving spouses in Albany Presbytery that will be held on May 12, 2011.

**COUNCIL REPORT**

**The following were 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 Elder Barbara Sperry (Northville) to serve on the Personnel Committee.
5. 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.
6. 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.
7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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.
10. 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. [A commissioner expressed concern about this action. Council Moderator Randall stated that the Council would revisit this matter at its May meeting.]
11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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”

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. Council Moderator Paul Randall appointed the following to serve on the planning group for the proposed September 2011 Retreat/Meeting: David Bennett, Tim Coombs, Marcia Etu, Shannon Meacham, Kirianne Riehl, Dan Rogers, and Cass Shaw. The planning group held its first meeting on April 6, 2011, and generated some creative ideas for how the time might be split among the following: business meeting segments; various forms of worship; and opportunities for fellowship. If the way be clear and Presbytery acts on April 12 to approve in concept the proposed change in format and location for the September meeting, the planning group will meet again on April 28, 2011, in order to flesh out some of the details to report to Council at its meeting on May 10, 2011. Council plans to report final details (costs, schedule, worship opportunities, participation by Vice Moderator Whitsitt) to Presbytery at the June Stated Meeting.

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

1. Council ACTED to recommend and Presbytery **ACTED TO APPROVE** by voice vote without objection 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”. [The Rev. Ted Brothers offered to provide boat rides on Lake George as part of the September retreat, weather permitting.]

2. Council NOMINATED the Rev. Elaine Woroby, Elder Sandra Hann (Malta), and the Rev. John Barclay to serve on the Presbytery Committee on Nominations. The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There being none, the above-listed nominees were **ELECTED** by voice vote without objection.

**PRESENTATION ON PROPOSED AMENDMENT 10-2 (Confession of Belhar)**

The Rev. Harold Delhagen (RCA) made a presentation on the Confession of Belhar and answered questions about it from the commissioners.

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT**

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

1. COM met on February 9, March 2, and March 30, 2011. The 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 were presented as part of the Presbytery Consent Agenda and were APPROVED by Presbytery:**

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 were presented for Presbytery discussion and action:**

1. COM 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. Presbytery **ACTED TO APPROVE** this recommendation by a voice vote without objection.

2. COM 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. Presbytery **ACTED TO APPROVE** this recommendation by voice vote without objection.

### **BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT**

#### **The following recommendations were presented for Presbytery discussion and action:**

1. The appended Agreement between the Trustees of the Presbytery of Albany and the Jermain Memorial Ecumenical Presbyterian Church was distributed as part of the Premeeting Packet. The Rev. Donald Stake reported that on motion and second, the Board of Trustees had voted at its meeting on March 30, 2011, to authorize Co-President Rev. Donald Stake to sign the Agreement and to recommend that Presbytery approve the Agreement at its April 12, 2011, Stated Meeting. (See contingency included in Paragraph 14 of the Agreement.) The Rev. Stake answered questions about the Agreement from commissioners. Presbytery **ACTED TO APPROVE** this recommendation (and hence the Agreement) by voice vote without objection but with one abstention by Elder Commissioner Carolyn Snyder Lemmon, who had served as the Presbytery's attorney in the development of the Agreement.
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. Presbytery **ACTED TO APPROVE** this recommendation by voice vote without objection.

### **DINNER**

Presbytery recessed from about 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. for dinner that was served at the neighboring Centenary Methodist Church.

### **WE WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER**

Presbytery reconvened at 7:00 p.m. for worship. Music accompaniment was provided by a group of four drummers. The Rev. Harold Delhagen preached the sermon. Commissioners were asked to share articles of faith within small groups and then several shared individual articles of faith with the entire Presbytery.

### **SPEAK OUT**

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make announcements or express views in 1 minute or less.

### **ACTION ON AMENDMENT 10-2**

Upon motion duly made, seconded, and debated, Presbytery **ACTED TO APPROVE** Proposed Amendment 10-2 to the Constitution – Part 1 of 2 to add the Confession of Belhar to the Book of Confessions by a nearly unanimous voice vote.

### **COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

Upon request from CPM, Presbytery **ACTED TO GRANT PERMISSION** for the Lord's Supper to be celebrated during the worship service that will be included in CPM's Consultation Retreat on May 22-23, 2011, at Camp Fowler.

### **MISSION REVIEW COMMITTEE**

The Rev. David Moore reported for the committee on the role of Presbytery in supporting missions.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Financial Manager Bill Ramage reviewed the appended Statement of Financial Position – Mission and Ecclesiastical Funds as of December 31, 2010, and December 31, 2009. He also answered questions from commissioners about the report.
2. The Rev. Bebb Wheeler Stone presented the following application to create a Peace Makers Task Force and after some questioning Presbytery **ACTED TO RECEIVE** the application for a first reading with the understanding that it will be presented for a second reading and action at the June 11, 2011, Stated Meeting:

To: Albany Presbytery  
Date: April 7, 2011  
Re: PeaceMakers Task Force  
From: Rev. Bebb Stone

On March 12, 2011 eight persons gathered at Union Presbyterian Church, Schenectady to discuss peacemaking in Albany Presbytery. We are:

Judy Hartley, Westminster Pres.  
Sue Bramer, Schoharie Pres.  
Barry Gustafson, Saratoga Springs  
Linda LeTendre, Saratoga Springs  
Rev. Earl Johnson, Johnstown Pres.  
Rev. Larry Deyss, Delmar Pres.  
Rev Ruth Kuo, Union Pres., Schenectady  
Rev Bebb Stone, Schoharie

We voted unanimously at that meeting to apply for status within the Presbytery as a Task Force. While the budgeting application we submitted would take effect in 2012, we are ready to begin immediately. Therefore:

We respectfully request Albany Presbytery to authorize us as a task force, since there are 36 churches that have participated in the Peacemaking Offering over the past 3 years, demonstrating the intention to “seek peace and pursue it.”

#### **Goals:**

To be a vehicle for Presbyterians and friends of Presbyterians\* within Albany Presbytery to make a social witness on matters of peace and justice, after the manner of “The Commitment to

Peacemaking: Through Christ Jesus, the world is reconciled to God, and all humanity is offered God's peace. God's peace (shalom) overcomes brokenness and despair and offers us the possibility of wholeness and peace in our own lives, our families, our communities, and in the international arena."

**Our Work Plan:**

- To identify Presbyterians and friends of Presbyterians within Albany Presbytery who feel called by a passion for constructing peace; and to invite them to participate in the conversations of the task force;
- To build trust as persons of shared faith while we resist fear in order to act.
- To connect the task force to the several aspects of the Compassion, Peace, and Justice Ministry Unit of the P.C. (USA); the UN Office, the Washington Office, the Peacemaking Program; PHEWA: as well as Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and Voices of Justice, etc.;
- To share "input" (books, articles, studies) as well as possibilities for action (events, actions, statements, etc.) and
- To communicate regularly with Albany Presbytery in meetings.

**Staff support**

We would anticipate help from the Administrative Assistant in the Presbytery Office as we arrange conference calls, etc.; and some support from the Rev. Cass Shaw as General Presbyter.

**Budget (Estimated)\*\***

Travel expenses (reimbursement by voucher)	\$600
Food, infrequently	\$250.
Resources	\$100.
Connectionalism	
Peace Fellowship Membership	\$100.
PHEWA presbytery Membership	\$250.
Voices of Justice	\$50.
Miscellany	\$50.
Total	\$1400

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\*covers members of federated churches within the bounds of Albany Presbytery.

\*\*It is our understanding that there are Peacemaking Funds currently in the budget.

3. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and debated, Presbytery **ACTED TO FUND** the people who are proposing the Peace Makers Task Force in the amount of \$500 to be taken from the Dedicated Peacemaking Account until the Presbytery can decide on the existence of a PeaceMakers Task Force.

**WE WORSHIP GOD TOGETHER AND THEN ADJOURN**  
**AS THE CHURCH SENT INTO THE WORLD**

The Presbytery **ACTED** to express appreciation to the United Church of Greenwich and their sister churches in Greenwich for hosting the meeting; to authorize payment of all bills of the Presbytery incidental to the meeting; and to adjourn at 9:00 p.m. following closing worship, which included the Sacrament of Holy Communion administered by the Revs. Michael Plank and Laura Mitchell and the benediction.

The Presbytery will meet next in stated session on Saturday, June 11, 2011 at 9:30 a.m., at the United Church of Cohoes, NY, unless previously convened in a constitutional manner.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Daniel Rogers  
Stated Clerk

**APPENDICES FOLLOW**