

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY
TWO HUNDRED EIGHTY SECOND STATED MEETING

Silver Bay YMCA Conference Center, Lake George, NY

September 19-20, 2011

WE GATHER IN GOD'S NAME / WE WORSHIP AND SERVE GOD

The Presbytery of Albany met in stated session at various times on Monday and Tuesday, September 19-20, 2011, at the Silver Bay YMCA Conference Center on Lake George, NY.

About 35 presbyters and guests attended a Pre-Meeting Worship and Conversation opportunity with the Rev. Landon Whitsitt, Vice Moderator of the 219th General Assembly of the PC(USA) at the same location on Sunday, September 18, 2011.

The Rev. Kirianne Riehl, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. on September 19, 2011. The meeting was held in Morse Hall at Silver Bay. The meeting began with Worship which included a sermon by the Rev. Landon Whitsitt.

WE PRESENT OUR OFFERINGS OF MISSION AND MINISTRY

The roll was compiled. Stated Clerk Ruling Elder H. Daniel Rogers announced a quorum was present and noted the number of those from whom he had received requests to be excused (21) and those who needed to arrive late or leave early (15). Voting delegates present for all or portions of the meeting included 50 Teaching Elders, and 30 Ruling Elders: 25 Ruling Elders representing 25 Congregations, and 5 who are members of the Presbytery Council or chair committees or task forces. An additional 18 people signed in as visitors. Those attending their first Presbytery Meeting were introduced and welcomed.

TEACHING ELDERS ENROLLED

John Aldridge	Kathy Gorman-Coombs	Jerry McKinney	Jim Reisner
John Barclay	Larry Greenwold	Shannon Meacham	Kirianne Riehl
David Bennett	Tom Gregg	Laura Lovell Mitchell	Rob Rose
Michael Burkley	Rupert "Bo" Harris, HR	David Moore	Frances Wattman Rosenau
Holly Cameron	Harry Heintz	Shirley Mosholder, HR	Kathryn Shaffer
Kathleen Chesnut	Beth Illingworth	Elizabeth Shen O'Connor	Cass Shaw
Cheryl Colt	Earl Johnson, HR	Bonnie Orth	Al Siegel, HR
Timothy Coombs	Ruth Kuo	Rick Otty	Katy Stenta
Larry Deyss, HR	Glenn Leupold	Rich Patterson	Susan Strang
Donna Elia	Miriam Lawrence	Cheryl Peasley	Jim Thompson, HR
Barbara Floryshak	Leupold	Jackie Pinkowski	Lois Wolff, HR
Chris Garrison	Alexandra Lusak, HR	Michael Plank	Pamela Woodman
Sue Goodin	Linda Martin	Paul Randall, HR	

TEACHING ELDERS EXCUSED OR HONORABLY RETIRED

Rolf Ahlers	Eric Fagans, HR	Roland "Mac" McDonald	Susan Rambo
Ken Applegate	Donna Frischknecht-	David McMillan, HR	William Rambo, HR
Alan Brokaw, HR	Jackson	Bruce Miller, HR	Sam Shinn, HR
Viki Brooks	Robert Garvin, HR	James Miller, HR	Joe Shook, HR
Ted Brothers, HR	Doug Gray, HR	Peg Miller, HR	David Simmons, HR
Bob Criswell, HR	Lucy Harris	Ed Morren, HR	Robert Smith, HR
Steven Cronn	Scott Hicks, HR	James Mosher, HR	Don Stake, HR
Marsha Cutting, HR	Kathi Jones	Hugh Nevin, HR	Bebb Wheeler Stone
James C. Davis	Stark Jones, HR	Harvey Noordsy, HR	Charles Stratton, HR
Lois Dodge, HR	Kate Kotfila	Tom Parsons, HR	Helenmarie Sunkenberg,
William Dodge, HR	Vincent Kumjian, HR	Mary-Jo Pattison	HR
Peter Durkee, HR	Robert Lamar, HR	Stewart Pattison	Dick Symes, HR
Leif Erickson, HR	Dennis Maher, HR	Don Pepper, HR	Greg Town

Rebecca Town

Danny Wheeler, HR

Mary Woodman

Elaine Woroby

TEACHING ELDERS ABSENT

Patricia Davies
John "Jay" Ekman
Robin Greene
Rich Hoffman

John McCauley
Bert Mayne
Jeff Palmer
David Park

Hwa Sung Ryu
Nadeem Sadiq
Allen Siebold
Nick TeBordo

Ali Trowbridge

TEACHING ELDERS LIVING OUTSIDE THE BOUNDS (EXCUSED)

Fergus Cochran, HR
Rick Hill
Andy Little

Mary-Lynn Morrison
Albert Newman, HR
Paul Wilson, HR

Jane Watt, HR

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

Corlin Bauhofer (CLP, Scotia)
Norma Brown (Excused)
Gale Bury (Excused)
Diane Calvanese (Lake Luzerne)

Barbara Cervenka
Gloria Ghirarduzzi (Excused)
Don Hyman (Excused)
Peter McKinney (Excused)

Cara Molyneaux (Excused)
H. Daniel Rogers
Irving Smith, Jr. (Excused)
Sal Scechitano (Brunswick)

CONGREGATIONS REPRESENTED BY RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Albany, First
Albany, Westminster
Amsterdam
Ballston Spa
Broadalbin
Corinth
Delmar
Glens Falls Chapel
Gloversville
Granville
Hamilton Union
Hoosick Falls
Hudson Falls

Peg Shalit
Arden Leach
Laurie Bargstedt
John W. Parker
Sam Jackling
William Fuller
Lois B. Hessberg
Carol Henderson
Jean Van Pelt
Barbara Wheeler
Bill Ramage
Elaine Sprunger
Pat Barron

Johnstown
Lake George, Bay Road
Lake George, Caldwell
New Scotland
Northville
Schenectady, State Street
Spencertown
Tribes Hill
Troy, FUPC
Waterford
West Charlton
West Hebron

Allen Day
Janet Kenyon
John Boucher
Ryan Dwyer
Clifford Wray
Sue Hawkes-Teeter
Lynn Brown
Nancy Cole
Peggy Drew
Linda Wilson
Helen King
Don Campbell

CHURCHES NOT REPRESENTED BY RULING ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Albany, New Covenant
Albany, Roessleville
Albany, West End
Breakabeen-North
Blenheim
Cambridge
Carlisle
Charlton Freehold
Cohoes
East Hebron
Esperance

Glens Falls First
Greenwich
Hudson
Jewett
Lansingburgh
Loudonville
Malta
Mayfield
Mechanicville
Menands
Poultney

Putnam Station
Rensselaer
Rensselaerville
Salem
Saratoga
Schaghticoke
Schenectady, Christ's
Church of the Hills
Schenectady, Korean
Schenectady, Union
Schoharie

Shushan
Stephentown
Stillwater
Troy, Oakwood
Troy, Third
Valatie
Warrensburg
Watervliet, First
West Galway
Whitehall

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

1. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote without objections to seat the Rev. Landon Whitsitt (Presbytery of Heartland) as a Corresponding Member.
2. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote without objections to approve the docket for the meeting as distributed with the Meeting Packet.

3. Upon motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote without objections to approve the minutes of the June 11, 2011, Stated Meeting as distributed.
4. There was no consent agenda. For ease in future reference, fiduciary business items are recorded under the relevant committee's section of these minutes. Where important, the actual date and time that actions were taken are noted.

The following were presented for information:

1. The next stated presbytery meeting will be held on Saturday, November 12, 2011, at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Albany, 7 Knox Drive, Schenectady, N.Y. beginning at 9:30 a.m.
2. The following are the Presbytery stated meeting dates in 2012:
 - Saturday – January 28, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.
 - Tuesday – April 17, 2012, at 4:00 p.m.
 - Tuesday - June 19, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.
 - Monday and Tuesday – September 17 and 18, 2012, (Meeting/Retreat)
 - Saturday - November 17, 2012, at 9:30 a.m.

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

3. 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 on July 27, 2011, to the Rev. Larry Greenwold to labor outside the bounds to officiate at a wedding in Zion National Park (Utah Presbytery) on October 1, 2011. Permission was granted on September 19, 2011, to the Rev. Robert Foltz-Morrison to labor outside the bounds to officiate at a wedding in Jacksonville, Florida (St. Augustine Presbytery) on October 1, 2011.
4. The Administrative Commission appointed by COM for the installation of the Rev. Pam Woodman as pastor of the Malta Presbyterian Church met on July 31, 2011, and completed its work.
5. The Budget and Finance Committees of Council reported to Council on June 14, 2011, that the audit of the 2009 financial records of the Presbytery has been completed.
6. The Rev. Robert Goodin has been dismissed to the Presbytery of Northern New England.
7. The Rev. Douglas Holmes has been dismissed to the Presbytery of Genesee.

MISSION TRIP STORY

At 10:30 a.m. on September, 19, 2011, the Rev. Tim Coombs made a presentation on the trip taken in July 2011 to Taize, France by several youth and adult leaders from Albany Presbytery.

VICE MODERATOR'S REPORT

At 10:45 a.m. on September 19, 2011, the Rev. Landon Whitsitt addressed the Presbytery and discussed the "Open Source Church."

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

The following items were presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. COM met on June 29, 2011, with representatives from the Mission Review Committee to discuss common issues and concerns which included an evaluation of the CLP program as a mission project; allocation of mission funds for 2012; Presbytery's role in receiving and allocating funds to mission projects; funding of ecumenical mission projects by Presbytery and by congregations; use of undefined or surplus mission funds to resource congregations, perhaps as a "stimulus package"; and concerns with payment of Per Capita and the effect this may have on possible available mission funds. COM docketed time at its September meeting to consider proposed changes in the wording of the Standing Rules concerning payment of Pre Capita and what will happen if a church fails to pay its Per Capita in full.
2. COM approved the following resolution: that the Strategy Task Force along with others be asked to come up with clear criteria by which congregations which meet these criteria would be eligible for various forms of support from Presbytery and to come to the October COM meeting with a draft report. It was suggested that representatives from the Board of Trustees and the Triennial Visit Task Force be recruited to assist the Strategy Task Force in this effort. It was also suggested that the task force might look at ways to partner with other churches. Said another way, this action is a challenge to the Strategy Task Force to identify criteria by which a healthy congregation may be judged.
3. COM discussed its current subcommittee workload and structure. The following suggestions were offered: combine membership of CPM with COM; create a small group of three to five members to be a transition task force to resource liaisons with consideration being given to co-opting experienced non-members of the committee to serve on the transition task force; ask Presbytery to increase the size of COM from 18 members to 21 members; and/or create a fourth COM subcommittee for transitions.
4. COM ACTED TO EMPOWER the Executive Committee to oversee the business of the committee over the summer which included consideration of reorganization.
5. The following represented COM and Albany Presbytery at a PDA training workshop in Louisville on July 20-23: Tom Gregg, Jackie Pinkowski, and Eric Fagans.
6. COM noted that the Hudson Falls session has sent a letter to Council indicating that they are now willing to pay the remainder of their 2010 Per Capita and to pay their 2011 Per Capita.
7. COM approved the following to serve on the Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Pam Woodman as Pastor of the Malta Presbyterian Church: Teaching Elders Kirianne Riehl (Moderator), Mary Woodman, and Jerry McKinney; Ruling Elders Diane Calvanese (Lake Luzerne), Sarah Dodge (Stillwater), Sandy Hann (Malta), and Bill Morris (Hamilton Union); and guest Teaching Elder Lynne Hardy (Presbytery of Northern New England).
8. COM met on September 14, 2011, and will meet next on October 12, 2011. Interim pastors serving within Albany Presbytery will be invited to meet with COM for dinner at the October meeting.
9. Helen King volunteered to represent COM on the Disaster Response Team being created by Council.
10. COM ACTED TO GRANT PERMISSION to the Lake George, Caldwell Congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee by the end of November 2011 if the way be clear and the information in the report and the mission statement from their Visioning Team is acceptable. COM representatives expect to have that report for review by its October meeting.
11. COM ACTED TO GRANT PERMISSION to the Amsterdam Congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.
12. COM APPROVED a grant from the Presbytery's Pensions and Ministerial Assistance Reserve Fund to the Rev. Bebb Wheeler Stone for up to \$2,000 to assist with unexpected housing expenses resulting from flood damage that has made the Schoharie Church manse uninhabitable and ACTED TO SUPPORT her application for a matching Shared Grant in the same amount from the Board of Pensions.

13. In the future, the COM Executive Committee will serve as the Clearance Committee for minister members of Albany Presbytery who wish to apply for pastoral positions in churches within Albany Presbytery.

The following were presented to Presbytery beginning at 11:30 a.m. on September 19, 2011:

Upon recommendation from COM, Presbytery recognized the Honorable Retirements for the Rev. Dr. Earl S. Johnson and the Rev. Larry Deys that became effective on July 1, 2011. Earl spoke on behalf of Larry; Allen Day and Alexandra Lusak spoke on behalf of Earl.

Martha Reisner, Executive Director of the Capital Region Theological Center made a presentation on CRTC's new initiative on Congregational Resourcing.

The COM Report was arrested and Presbytery went into recess from 12:20 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on September 19, 2011.

During the recess from 1:15 p.m. until 3:00 p.m., the following were offered:

Open Space Discussion Groups:

Ideas for Spiritual Growth (Frances Rosenau host)
The Impact of Mission Trips (Guatemala/Ghana host)
The Jazz question (Kirianne Riehl host)
Continued discussion with Landon Whitsitt

Workshops:

Peer Review of Session Minutes (Dan Rogers)
Presbytery Disaster Relief Task Force (Cass Shaw)

The meeting was called back to order at 7:00 p.m. on September 19, 2011, by the Rev. Paul Randall, Vice Moderator.

MISSION TRIP STORY

The Revs. Frances Wattman Rosenau, Alexandra Lusak, and Kathryn Shaffer made a presentation on a mission trip taken by members of the Westminster Church, Albany to Ghana.

Kirianne Riehl resumed her role as Moderator at 7:15 p.m. following the Mission Trip Story.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT CONTINUED

The Rev. Tom Gregg, Chair of COM, reported that due to illness, the Rev. Marti Montovani could not attend the meeting. Therefore, her examination for transfer of membership from the Presbytery of East Iowa to become the Interim Pastor of the Stillwater Presbyterian Church was postponed until the next stated meeting on November 12, 2011.

The Rev. Pam Woodman, COM Member, introduced the Rev. Lynne Hardy to be examined for transfer of membership from the Presbytery of Northern New England. Tom Gregg directed the attention of Presbytery to the statement of faith and biographical information that had been provided for the Rev. Hardy in the Pre-meeting Packet. He also reviewed the examination process that will be used which included the following question to be answered by the Rev. Hardy:

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?

Tom Gregg presented and moved the following recommendation on behalf of COM:

Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members, COM RECOMMENDS that Presbytery examine the Rev. Lynne Hardy for transfer of membership from the Presbytery of Northern New England to be a Member At Large and that her name be added to the Approved Preaching List.

The Rev. Hardy responded to the questions prepared by COM. She also reported that she is currently employed full time in the Capital District area as a registered nurse. The floor was opened to questions and answers following the new examination process. A motion to arrest the examination for transfer of membership was made, seconded and **APPROVED** by a voice vote.

The Rev. Hardy was excused from the meeting.

David Moore reported that several years ago, when he chaired the Albany Presbytery CPM, the Rev. Hardy had been in a covenant relationship with and a Candidate under the care of Albany Presbytery, but by mutual agreement between her and CPM, her candidate status was transferred by action of Albany Presbytery to the Presbytery of Northern New England (PNNE) with the support of that presbytery and the session of her home church Stillwater United. David also reported that prior to her transfer, the Albany Presbytery CPM had shared with her their concerns about her spiritual growth and preparation for ministry and had provided guidance and council to her about those concerns.

It was also reported that while under the care of the PNNE, she received a call to a church in the Presbytery of Transylvania, which examined and approved her for ordination. At her request and with the approval of the PNNE, she was ordained by Albany Presbytery at her home church in Stillwater before the PNNE transferred her membership to the Presbytery of Transylvania.

Tom Gregg reported on some concerns that had been discussed with the Rev. Hardy during the Clearance Interviews by COM. These included a recommendation that she rework her Statement of Faith and continue counseling for issues related to her past relationship with Albany Presbytery.

By motion duly made, seconded, and debated, Presbytery **ACTED TO APPROVE** by a voice vote the following amendment to the motion:

Delete the following text from the motion: “and that her name be added to the Approved Preaching List” and replace it with “and ask COM to appoint a mentor to work with Lynne to work out difficulties and concerns expressed during the meeting before she seeks professional ministry opportunities in Albany Presbytery.”

A motion to add further conditions to the motion was made, seconded, debated, and LOST,

David Bennett offered prayer. Presbytery **ACTED TO APPROVE** by a voice vote the following motion as amended:

Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members and a recommendation from COM, Presbytery ACTED to sustain the examination of the Rev. Lynne Hardy and approve the transfer of her membership from the Presbytery of Northern New England to be a Member At Large and asked COM to appoint a mentor to work with Lynne to work out difficulties and concerns expressed during the meeting before she seeks professional ministry opportunities in Albany Presbytery.

Tom Gregg asked COM members Miriam Lawrence Leupold and Pam Woodman to convey the action of the Presbytery to the Rev. Hardy outside the meeting hall and determine if she still wished to have her membership transferred with the conditions placed on the transfer.

Due to the lateness of the hour (8:25 p.m.) and the need to proceed quickly to Outdoor Worship which included the Sacrament of Holy Communion, the Moderator declared that the Presbytery would be in recess until 9:00 a.m. on September 20, 2011. The Rev. Hardy did not return to the meeting.

Morning worship was led by the Rev. Tim Coombs beginning at 7:00 a.m. in the Boathouse.

The meeting was called back to order at 9:00 a.m. on September 20, 2011, by the Rev. Kirianne Riehl, Moderator.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT CONTINUED

The following recommendations were presented for Presbytery discussion and action:

1. Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members, COM recommended and Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to approve a contract between the Rev. Lois Wolff and the Session of the Greenwich Presbyterian Church to be its Temporary Supply and Moderator effective September 5, 2011, for 6 months through March 5, 2012, with the following annual terms: 16 hours per week; salary - \$10,700; housing allowance - \$2,400; medical allowance - \$131; total effective salary - \$13,231; social security offset - \$1,012; medical dues of \$6,705 less deferred compensation to Retirement Savings Plan of \$5,000 = \$1,705 payable to pastor; continuing education allowance - \$530; professional expenses - \$210 plus mileage up to \$875 at \$0.555 per mile; total monthly to be paid to the Rev. Wolff - \$1,318 and total monthly to be paid to Retirement Savings Plan - \$416.67. Vacation for 6-month term: 2 weeks including two Sundays. The Board of Pensions does not require temporary positions to be part of the BOP program.

Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to extend thanks to the Rev. Pam Woodman for serving as moderator at the Greenwich church.

2. Upon recommendation from COM, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to concur with the action taken by the congregation of the West Hebron Presbyterian Church at a meeting held on June 13, 2011, and moderated by the Rev. Cass Shaw to approve the Rev. Rob Rose's request to dissolve his relationship there as pastor effective October 1, 2011. Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to appoint the Rev. Kate Kotfila to serve as moderator of the West Hebron Church effective October 1, 2011.

3. Following a successful Clearance Interview by COM members and with the approval of the preceding recommendation, COM recommended and Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to approve a contract and mobilization agreement between the Rev. Rob Rose and the Session of the State Street Presbyterian Church, Schenectady to be its Interim Pastor and Moderator effective October 1, 2011, through September 30, 2012, with the following annual terms: 40 hours per week; salary \$19,300; housing allowance \$23,000; total effective salary \$42,300; pension and medical dues \$13,324.50; social security offset \$3,235.95; study allowance \$2,100; mileage reimbursement \$1,560; total financial benefits \$62,520.45. Moving expenses - actual. Study leave and vacation in accordance with Presbytery policy. Military leave – 2 weeks including two Sundays. Mobilization (deployment) per attached Mobilization agreement.

Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to extend thanks to the Rev. Ken Applegate and the Rev. Thomas Gregg for serving as moderators at the State Street Church since February 2011.

4. Upon recommendation from COM, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to concur with the action of the congregation of the First Church, Watervliet, taken at a meeting on September 11, 2011, and moderated by the Rev. Steven Cronn, to dissolve their call to the Rev. Steven Cronn as pastor at his request effective November 1, 2011, so that he may retire; and Presbytery **ACTED** to approve Honorable Retirement status for the Rev. Cronn effective November 1, 2011. Formal recognition of the Rev. Cronn's retirement will be made at the November Presbytery meeting.

5. Upon motion duly made, seconded, and debated, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to approve the following contract between the Rev. Rupert B. Harris, Jr. (HR) and the session of the West Hebron United Presbyterian Church beginning on October 9, 2011: Service to be provided (1) Preach and lead worship each Sunday morning. This will include administration of the sacraments of the Lord's Supper and baptism as scheduled by the session. (2) Provide pastoral visits for persons who have ongoing illnesses or who are in care facilities or hospitals. Visit families in the event of emergencies or when death occurs. Officiate at funerals,

memorial services, and graveside ceremonies. Remuneration for services will be in conformity with standard rates for pulpit supply and mileage set by Albany Presbytery. Weekly Sunday pulpit supply will be compensated at a rate of \$130 plus \$0.55/mile. Pastoral visits will be compensated at a rate of \$20 per hour and \$0.55/ mile. This contract will expire when an interim pastor begins work or on Dec. 31, 2011. If mutually agreed upon, the contract can be renewed for a specific period in 2012.

Tom Gregg thanked the Presbytery for its work on the examination of the Rev. Lynne Hardy on September 19 with appreciation for the thoughtfulness of the body. He also noted recognition of the short comings that became evident during the examination.

COUNCIL REPORT

The following were presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. The Council met on June 14 and August 16, 2011, at the West End PC in Albany.
2. The Rev. Rob Rose has joined Council as the representative from the Budget and Finance Committee. Council ACTED TO ELECT Rob Rose as chairperson of the Budget & Finance Committee.
3. Council received the following request from Terry Diggory on behalf of Presbyterian Rainbow:

"... we request that Council develop a process for presbytery and sessions to study the report of the Special Committee to Study Issues of Civil Union and Christian Marriage. Following action by the 219th General Assembly (2010), the Stated Clerk transmitted the report (including a minority report) to the church, expressly stating that these documents were "commended for study and action as the church seeks ways to be more welcoming to covenanted same-gender couples and their families."

Council ACTED TO CREATE and the following have agreed to serve on an ad hoc group that has been empowered to create a study process that will focus primarily on sessions rather than the Presbytery: Terry Diggory, Laura Rogers, Michael Burkley, and Nick TeBordo. The ad hoc group has begun work.

4. The following met with some of the applicants for the Peace Makers Task Force on August 20, 2011, to discuss Council concerns: Paul Randall, Cass Shaw, Tom Gregg, and David Moore. A recommendation concerning this application was prepared by Council at its September 13 meeting and was included in the Meeting Day Packet. See Item 28 below.
5. Council ACTED TO CREATE a Joint Working Group (JWG) with representatives from Budget & Finance, Mission Review, Council, COM, Personnel, and staff to review and assess strategies for possibly capping Per Capita. Paul will invite each entity to name someone to serve on the JWG and ask the Budget & Finance representative to serve as convener of the JWG. The JWG will be asked to prepare a report to Council by October 31, 2011, so it can be considered at the November 2011 Council meeting.
6. Council received a revised application for a Western Presbytery Rural Youth Ministry New Church Youth Leader Initiative. Council ACTED TO APPROVE the 3-year program in concept and APPROVE \$8,200 in funding for the first year (2011-2012) with the requirement that a report on the first year be submitted with the next grant request.
7. Upon nomination by the Presbytery Nominating Committee, Council ELECTED Elder Ted Eighmie (Charlton Freehold) to serve on the Budget & Finance Committee. However, Ted subsequently indicated that he is unable to serve on the B&F Committee.

8. Council received the following from the Budget and Finance Committee: In January the committee voted to inform the Council that the 2009 audit had been done, and asked Council to report this to the Presbytery for the minutes.

9. Bill Ramage reported that we can set up an account through Pay Pal. The fees per transaction would be 2.9% + 30 cents. (If we went with a "lock box" it would cost us \$100 per month.) We could use a Pay Pal account to provide an opportunity through the website for people to make donations to the Presbytery or any of our mission projects. The Budget and Finance Committee recommended this to the Council, along with introducing an automatic bill pay process for churches. Council ACTED to approve this recommendation with the provision that ITT review security and maintenance issues/concerns.

10. Council received and ACTED TO APPROVE funding under Item 5126 for the following proposal from COM:

PROPOSAL FOR MENTORING TRAINING
Part of Flipping the Presbytery

Purpose: To provide training for mentors who work with newly ordained Ministers of Word and Sacrament in Albany Presbytery.

Administration: The program will be under the supervision and direction of the Pastoral Care Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry.

Structure and Procedures: The training would involve a one-time group meeting in which the theoretical frameworks would be described. The use of Appreciative Inquiry and Emotional Intelligence as they apply to mentoring/coaching will be described and practiced. Following the one-time group meeting, smaller groups of no more than eight would meet on a monthly basis for 2 hours for 12 months. During that time, the mentors would, through the use of current case studies, receive training and feedback based on what they share during their time in the group as a means of sharpening their own skills in the use of AI and EI.

Cost: Cost for one-time, 6-hour training: \$1000 (lunch expense/provision to be negotiated). Cost for 24 hours of training: \$1,200 per person. So the total cost per person would be \$1200 plus a part of the \$1000. For example, if we had a group of eight people participating, the total cost would be \$10,600.

11. Council received on August 16, 2011, and ACTED TO POSTPONE until September 13, 2011, consideration of a proposal from COM to fund COVENANT GROUPS. See Item 21 below.

12. Council received, discussed, and acted upon the following covenant applications from task forces for 2012 as noted (For the record, copies of these applications are on file at the Presbytery office):

The Commissioned Lay Pastor Program Task Force: Council ACTED to send back the application with a request that the task force complete the tasks they agreed to do previously. Cass and Barbara Cervenka will meet with the CLP Task Force. Further action by Council is on hold.

Guatemala Partnership Task Force: Council ACTED TO APPROVE the application which included \$8,000 in funding for 2012.

Mission Trip Scholarship Team: Council ACTED TO APPROVE without objection.

Youth of Albany Presbytery Task Force: Council ACTED TO APPROVE without objection. Approval included a proposed budget of \$38,500 for 2012.

PeaceMakers Task Force: Action is on hold. See Item 28 below.

13. Council has received a proposal from the Bethel Peniel Presbyterian Church of Granville to unite with the Granville United Methodist Church of Granville. The proposal included a Plan of Union to create the United Church of Granville. Council asked the Stated Clerk to review the Plan of Union and report back to Council at a later time.

14. Now that nFOG has been approved by a majority of Presbyteries, it will be necessary to amend the Standing Rules of the Presbytery and create a new Administrative Manual of Operations. The Stated Clerk is working on these.

15. Council received for information copies of the letter received from the Hudson Falls Church session concerning resumption of payment of Per Capita and the response sent by the Stated Clerk to their questions.

16. It has been determined that it is not feasible to obtain and manage a CCLI license for all churches in the Presbytery. A CCLI license could be gotten for Presbytery to use for meetings.

17. Council ACTED to dismiss the Jermain Task Force with gratitude and will include a minute of appreciation for the work of this task force at the September Presbytery meeting.

18. Paul noted that Shannon Meacham has resigned from the "Flipping the Presbytery" Task Force and asked Council members to send ideas for her replacement to him.

19. Council received a New Initiatives Funding Request for \$795 from Trinity Presbyterian Church to help fund a summer program for students from violent and troubled backgrounds and recommended its approval. Upon recommendation from Tim Coombs, co-pastor of Trinity PC, Council ACTED to approve the use of Peace Making funds rather than New Initiative funds to support the program.

20. The Council met on September 13, 2011, at the West End PC in Albany. The Council will meet next on October 11, 2011, from 12:00 noon until 3:30 p.m. at the West End PC.

21. Council received and ACTED TO APPROVE funding of \$2,880 from Item 5126 for the following proposal from COM:

PROPOSAL FOR COVENANT GROUPS

Part of Flipping the Presbytery

Purpose: To provide a setting for pastors of Albany Presbytery to come together to discuss issues that are common to their lives and ministries.

Administration: The program will be under the auspices of the Pastoral Care Subcommittee of the Committee on Ministry.

Structure and Procedures: The groups would form out of a need, from the ground up, and not be imposed upon anyone. The groups would meet at least once a month for 1.5 to 2 hours.

If desired, a trained facilitator would be used. The role of this facilitator would be to reflect back to the group issues dealing with systems—within the congregation, family, group itself. The facilitator would assist the participants in reframing their role in the system to keep it healthy.

Cost: Cost for a facilitator would be \$40/per person per session. So an annual cost for a group of six clergy meeting once a month would be \$2880.

22. Council ACTED TO ENDORSE a funding request for \$9,750 to the Central New York Presbytery Partnership Group of the Synod of the Northeast for the Senior High United Nations Seminar in February 2012.

23. Council ACTED TO APPROVE the following funding requests to be charged against Budget Item 5112, Committee Training Expenses: up to \$1,000 for the Rev. Alexandra Lusak to attend a Committee on

Representation Training Event in Louisville in October 2011; and \$1,408 plus meal per diems for the Rev. Paul Randall, Vice Moderator, to attend a Moderators Training Event in Louisville in November 2011.

24. Council received a report from the Personnel Committee that Annual Reviews have been held with all staff of Albany Presbytery; that all program staff received favorable reviews; that all other staff (support/contract) also received favorable reviews; and that Sue Braymer has been moved from probationary status to the status as a regular employee.

25. Council will propose a change in the Standing Rules to make a representative from the Personnel Committee a voting member of Council.

26. Council discussed creation of a Presbytery Disaster Preparedness and Response Plan using a model proposed by PDA. Cass Shaw will work with the Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, and others to create a Disaster Response Team.

27. The Mission Review Committee is seeking new members. Volunteers are invited to contact David Moore.

28. Council received a proposed Covenant to be added to the application for funding received in April from the group that proposed creation of a Peacemaking Task Force. See revised application which includes the Covenant that is presented elsewhere in the Meeting Packet. Council agreed in principle with the proposed covenant to make the task force a task force of Council and not of Presbytery. Council Moderator Randall will share some coordination issues that will need to be resolved when the proposal is presented by the applicants for a second reading and action.

The following was presented for Presbytery action:

Council RECOMMENDED that Presbytery approve the following overture from the session of the Corinth Church to pay presbytery and synod per capita and withhold GA per capita with the suggestion that the amount being withheld be designated to some PC(USA) mission project that the Corinth session does support. Implied within this recommendation is the understanding that presbytery will not pay this withheld per capita to GA on behalf of the Corinth Church.

The Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Corinth respectfully overtures Albany Presbytery Council with a possible solution to our Apportionment dilemma. At present Corinth is withholding and escrowing its Ecclesiastical Apportionment as a statement of conscience and protest concerning decisions by General Assembly which, we feel, seriously endanger the national and international witness of the PCUSA. In the past we have sent letters, signed petitions, submitted an Overture to GA and voted again and again. Both our Overture and our votes have been defeated by the presbytery. We are now withholding as the only way we feel we can be heard by General Assembly as a prophetic voice, deeply concerned for the future of our church. However, presbytery's policy of covering our withholding with other presbytery monies effectively nullifies our voice. It seems that a church in the minority cannot be heard beyond the borders of presbytery. We therefore propose and request that presbytery allow our small voice to be heard by the higher levels by ceasing to "cover" our GA withholding with presbytery monies. We see this as a "Relief of Conscience" measure, similar to the relief offered us, and others, by the Board of Pensions/Major Medical regarding the funding of abortions. For our part, we would like to recommence the payment of our presbytery and synod allotments of Ecclesiastical Apportionment. We are aware that other presbyteries have a policy consistent with our proposal in order to allow their churches' voices to be heard. We would hope that Albany would consider a similar policy. Thank you for your consideration.

Council received the following endorsement from Brunswick related to this overture:

The Brunswick Session on April 5, 2011, voted unanimously to support the overture of the First Presbyterian Church of Corinth regarding apportionment. We believe it is important that Corinth's voice be heard and that presbytery not cover or make up from other funds what Corinth withholds from any governing body.

After debate which included several statements to the effect that the proposed action will have no significant impact on the PC(USA) and a reminder that a presbytery has an obligation to pay full Per Capita to Synod and GA, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to concur with the overture. It was understood that a statement will be sent to the General Assembly as to why this overture was approved. It was also understood that this withholding by Corinth will be in addition to any capping of per capita that may be approved as part of the budget process.

John Aldridge, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Corinth, thanked the Presbytery for its approval of the overture.

MISSION TRIP STORY

Sam Jacking made a presentation on a REACH Work Camp project completed by youth and adults from the Broadalbin Church in West Virginia in July 2011.

COUNCIL REPORT CONTINUED

The Rev. Earl Johnson presented and Presbytery ACTED by voice vote to approve the following:

COVENANT OF SHARED MINISTRY

Between Albany Presbytery and the Peacemaking Task Force.

Grounded in Jesus' blessing of the peacemakers as children of God, and called by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to active peacemaking, people called to ordered ministry (ruling and teaching elders, deacons) other church leaders, Sessions, and friends of Albany Presbytery will live out the Peacemaking Commitment by:

- 1. seeking and inviting persons with a passion for God's inseparable peace and justice to connect with the Peacemaking Task Force for the purpose of support, information gathering, project development, and witness.**
- 2. connecting to Albany Presbytery as a Task Force of Council;**
 - a) requesting docket time at a stated presbytery meeting at least 3 times/year, such time not to exceed 30 minutes, (unless a rare exception is needed), the purpose for which shall be interpretation of peacemaking as practice, resourcing congregations, and highlighting upcoming opportunities.**
 - b) receiving operational support from the Mission Fund (\$500 in 2011; \$2,000 in 2012) and receiving \$1,000 of the undesignated Peacemaking Offering each year. [Twenty-five percent of each congregation's peacemaking offering is sent undesignated to each presbytery for peacemaking activities. It is understood that Council will, for now, remain the project manager for other grant requests to the presbytery for use of the peacemaking offering.]**
- 3. reviewing this Covenant annually, which authorizes and supports the work of the task force and its expenditures of money.**

Background:

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.

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

Council Moderator Paul Randall introduced Bill Ramage, Financial Manager, to present on behalf of the Budget and Finance Committee the 2012 Mission and Ecclesiastical Budgets as recommended by Council for a first reading. Copies of the proposed 2012 Mission and Ecclesiastical Budgets are attached to these minutes.

With respect to the estimated Mission Income, Bill reported that currently requests for mission pledges are sent to all churches in December each year with several follow-up e-mail reminders to those who have not submitted a pledge. Bill noted that the projected Mission Income (Line Item 4004) for 2012 is only an educated guess and has been reduced from 2011 based on experience over the past few years. By motion duly made, seconded, and debated Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to ask Council to review the manner by which Presbytery communicates with churches on how they report/share their mission pledges with Presbytery. Implied within this action is the need to highlight the importance of having as many pledges as possible as soon as possible to better inform decisions around the Mission Budget each year. A concern was raised about the large mission surpluses that have resulted in recent years. Donna Elia suggested that increases in the grants to mission partners should be considered as one way to both use current surpluses and reduce future surpluses. Jim Reisner suggested that small churches may be reluctant to make pledges for fear that they might not be able to pay.

Business was suspended at 10:30 a.m. for the following Order of the Day Open Space Discussions and Workshops:

Open Space Discussion Topics:

How should the Presbytery engage in mission? (MRC)

What staffing pattern is most effective for our future?

(Personnel)

“Open Source Church” with Landon Whitsitt

Workshops:

Training on nFOG

Recruitment of Pastors, Interns

During lunch from 12:00 – 1:00 p.m., commissioners were given the opportunity to make announcements or express views in 1 minute or less.

Presbytery reconvened at 1:00 p.m. with a Healing Service led by Laura Mitchell.

At 1:45 p.m., Brooke Newell, Advocacy Coordinator for the Central New York Presbytery Partnership Group of the Synod of the Northeast reviewed her advocacy work during 2011.

Shannon Meacham resumed the Council Report on behalf of Paul Randall at 2:08 p.m. Bill Ramage continued his presentation of the 2012 Mission Budget for a first reading. By motion duly made, seconded, and debated, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to direct Council to modify the 2012 Mission Budget by distributing the \$3,109 estimated surplus equitably among the six Mission Partners.

There were several questions about what projects were funded under Line Item 5126, “Flipping the Presbytery” in 2011 and what projects will be budgeted under it for 2012. By consensus, Presbytery asked that Council provide by the November 12, 2011, Stated Meeting a breakdown of what this item was used to fund in 2011 and what the planned spending is for 2012 as part of the presentation of the 2012 budgets for a second reading and action.

In response to a question raised about the large increase in Line Item 5059, COM/Pastoral Care Incentives, Tom Gregg explained that the intent is to provide opportunities for supporting sabbaticals.

Bill Ramage then reviewed the 2012 Ecclesiastical Budget which includes a recommendation to only pay 95 percent of the Synod and General Assembly Per Capita Assessments in 2012. Some questioned whether this is a good idea and whether it will only be for one year or it is a policy change. By consensus, Presbytery requested that Council prepare a written explanation/rationale for this recommendation including the potential ramifications and include this written explanation/rationale in the Pre-meeting Packet for the November 12, 2011, Stated Meeting along with the proposed budgets for 2012. It was also suggested that if Presbytery approves the 2012 Ecclesiastical Budget with a capped payment of only 95 percent of the Synod and GA Per Capita Assessments, a separate communication must be sent to Synod and GA to explain this action with appropriate rationale.

On behalf of Council, Shannon Meacham presented and recommended approval of the following Overture:

The Presbytery of Albany respectfully overtures the Synod of the Northeast to establish a Special Committee, staffed by the Synod’s Transitional Leader, to consider and recommend options for future Synod structure and function including:

- **A “Reduced Function Synod” as defined in the nFOG**
- **The creation of several smaller, state-wide Synods**

The Special Committee will also evaluate and make recommendations concerning:

- **Appropriate staffing structures for each design**
- **The efficacy of Presbytery Partnership Groups**
- **How to provide for consideration of Judicial matters and Synod Designated Funds**
- **How to continue our partnership with GA to fund projects requiring/aided by three judicatory partners (Presbyteries, GA, Synod)**
- **the Early Ministry Institute, Campus Ministry, State Councils of Churches, Racial Ethnic Caucuses, Collegium, etc.**

This Special Committee will report its progress to the Synod Council, all Presbyteries, and all Presbytery Partnership Groups on a quarterly basis, and will bring a comprehensive recommendation to the Synod of the Northeast no later than the Synod's 2012 fall assembly.

RATIONALE:

We welcome the renewed efforts of the Synod Council and staff to envision a new future for the Synod of the Northeast. At the same time, the past ineffectiveness of the Council, the Mission Design Team and the staff over several years (due not only to crises such as Clint McCoy's untimely death, but also systemic paralysis and declining support and interest on the part of presbyteries) has illustrated the unlikelihood that a Transitional Leader on his or her own can effect the kind of change so desperately needed.

A Special Committee, composed of people with a variety of the necessary skills can provide the kind of leadership and partnership that one person cannot.

The following substitute motion was made and seconded:

The Presbytery of Albany respectfully overtures the Synod of the Northeast to establish a Special Committee to begin working toward the elimination of the Synod level governing council of the PC(USA).

The Moderator called for amendments to the main motion. By motion duly made, seconded, and debated, Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to make the following amendment to the main motion:

Add the following bullet to the two options to be considered for the future Synod structure and function:

- **Begin working toward the elimination of the synod level governing council of the PC(USA).**

The Moderator called for amendments to the substitute motion. There were none, and the Moderator declared that the substitute motion was perfected.

The Moderator put the question: "Shall the substitute motion be substituted for the main motion." There was no debate, and the question was defeated by a voice vote.

There was no further debate on the main motion as amended, and the Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to approve the following overture as amended:

The Presbytery of Albany respectfully overtures the Synod of the Northeast to establish a Special Committee, staffed by the Synod's Transitional Leader, to consider and recommend options for future Synod structure and function including:

- **A "Reduced Function Synod" as defined in the nFOG**
- **The creation of several smaller, state-wide Synods**
- **Begin working toward elimination of the synod level governing council of the PC(USA)**

The Special Committee will also evaluate and make recommendations concerning:

- **Appropriate staffing structures for each design**
- **The efficacy of Presbytery Partnership Groups**
- **How to provide for consideration of judicial matters and Synod Designated Funds**
- **How to continue our partnership with GA to fund projects requiring/aided by three judicatory partners (Presbyteries, GA, Synod)**
- **the Early Ministry Institute, Campus Ministry, State Councils of Churches, Racial Ethnic Caucuses, Collegium, etc.**

This Special Committee will report its progress to the Synod Council, all Presbyteries, and all Presbytery Partnership Groups on a quarterly basis, and will bring a comprehensive recommendation to the Synod of the Northeast no later than the Synod's 2012 fall assembly.

RATIONALE:

We welcome the renewed efforts of the Synod Council and staff to envision a new future for the Synod of the Northeast. At the same time, the past ineffectiveness of the Council, the Mission Design Team and the staff over several years (due not only to crises such as Clint McCoy's untimely death, but also systemic paralysis and declining support and interest on the part of presbyteries) has illustrated the unlikelihood that a Transitional Leader on his or her own can effect the kind of change so desperately needed.

A Special Committee, composed of people with a variety of the necessary skills can provide the kind of leadership and partnership that one person cannot.

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT

The Committee on Nominations presented the following for election as committee chairs for 2012:

Committee on Ministry: Rev. Tom Gregg

Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Rev. Cheryl Colt

Committee on Representation: Ruling Elder Don Hyman

Self-Development of People: Rev. Jim Mosher

The Moderator asked if there were any nominations from the floor. There were none, and the Presbytery **ACTED** by voice vote to elect those nominated by the committee.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The following were presented for information:

Jermain Church Matters: Title to the Church property has been conveyed to the Jermain Memorial Ecumenical Presbyterian Church. The Presbytery has received net proceeds from the sale of the Jermain manse of \$128,529.32 after reimbursing Jacqueline Shea for a deposit she made when she first rented the house. Funds were "advanced" (between \$45,000 and \$50,000) from the Trustee accounts to the Jermain account in order to pay the continuing maintenance costs of the building at Jermain (gas/electric, management fees, snow plowing and lawn maintenance, etc.). The Trustees will "repay" these funds from the proceeds of the manse sale. This will leave about \$80,000 remaining from the manse sale. Funds remaining in the Jermain Watkins Fund (\$106,715.95) have been transferred from the Trustee checking account to a new, separate, dedicated Watkins Fund trustee account with Curran Investment Management.

Westminster, Schenectady: The closing on the sale of the property to the Everlasting Life Church of God in Christ (purchaser) has been held. The Presbytery has received a total of \$24,334.48 from the sale to date. The first monthly payment of \$1,095.23 on the \$92,000, 7-year, no-interest loan to the purchaser has also been received. The Board **ACTED** not to require the purchaser to pay any rent for use of the property in the interim time between acceptance of the offer to buy and the closing since the purchaser has paid to maintain and improve the property during this time.

Hebron Task Force: The task force had an offer of \$400 to purchase a truck. Final sale is pending resolution of title issues. Roof repair work has been done, and the bill for that work has been paid. Real Estate Agent Linda Tidd-Dickstein is actively marketing the property and has had a couple inquiries.

Community Chapel, West Glens Falls: The \$5,000 loan was paid in full on May 20, 2011.

The Board **ACTED** to request that a representative from NY Interfaith Power and Light be invited to make a presentation on ways to “green” a church at the November 2011 Presbytery meeting.

MISSION TRIP STORY

At 2:45 p.m., the Rev. Glenn Leupold made a presentation on the mission trip taken in July 2011 to Lyons, NY by several youth and adult leaders from First Church, Albany.

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

The Presbytery **ACTED** to authorize payment of all bills of the Presbytery incidental to the meeting; and to adjourn at 3:05 p.m. following closing prayer by the moderator.

The Presbytery will meet next in stated session on Saturday, November 12, 2011, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Albany in Schenectady, NY unless previously convened in a constitutional manner.

ATTEST: _____

H. Daniel Rogers
Stated Clerk