

June 22, 2021 – Zoom Meeting

**PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL NEW JERSEY MEETING ON ZOOM
TUESDAY, JUNE 22, 2021**

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of Central New Jersey, held on Zoom, on Tuesday, June 22, 2021, was called to order at 6:31pm by the moderator, Rev. Diane Ford, who opened the meeting with prayer.

Rev. Lindsay Anderson-Beck welcomed the assembled to the virtual host church, Allentown Presbyterian Church. She acknowledged the land that Allentown is built on was taken from the Delaware and the Lenni-Lenape; she also provided some of the racial history of the town.

Worship

Rev. Lee Catoe and Elder Destini Hodges preached “Jesus: The Original YAV” on Psalm 30 and Mark 5:21-43. Music was led by Enoch Smith Jr.

Roll of Presbytery’s Commissioners

The moderator announced that a quorum was present. The following teaching elders were in attendance:

Lindsay Anderson-Beck (V)	Chuck Holm (HR)	Lori Neff LaRue (V)
Marie Bacchiocchi (V)	Linda Hora (HR)	Cynthia Parker (HR)
Barbara Booth (V)	Chris Houtz (V)	Joanne Petto (V)
Cindy Bowman (HR)	Christian Johnson (V)	Nina Reeder (HR)
David Bowman (V)	Justin Karmann (V)	Marianne Rhebergen (V)
James Brumm (V)	Larissa Kwong Abazia (AL)	Paul Rhebergen (V)
Douglas Chase (HR)	Marcus Lambright (V)	Ann Schoonover (V)
Walter De Gunya (V)	Jenny Lee (V)	Byron Shafer (HR)
Miriam Diephouse-McMillan (V)	Marcia Lewis (V)	Thomas Sheffield (HR)
Jessica Dixon (V)	Michael Livingston (V)	Jonathan Shenk (AL)
George Erlandson (V)	Hannah Lovaglio (V)	Sue Smith (V)
Nidia Fernandez (V)	Janet Macgregor-Williams (V)	Glory Thomas (V)
Gary W Filson (V)	Gordon Mikoski (HR)	Jan Willem Van Der Werff (V)
Diane Ford (V)	Nancy Mikoski (V)	Wendi Werner (V)
Linda Goeddel (HR)	John Monroe (V)	David Widmer (V)
Katja Gruening (V)	William Morris (V)	Phyllis Zoon (HR)

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The following ministers laboring in the bounds were present:

Donna Lepsky

The following Commissioned Ruling Elders were present:

Julissa Alvarez-Garcia

The following churches were represented by the Elder Commissioner(s) indicated:

Allentown (R. Heddy, N. Tindall)	Lincroft (F. Munn)
Avenel (S. Kosakowski)	Matawan (J. Farry, J. Knoth)
Brick (C. Trautweiler)	Nassau (L. Cornell)
Cranbury (K. Gordon)	New Brunswick (B. Meyer)
Dutch Neck (D. Redman, M. Redman, S. Sabol)	Ocean (E. Kelsey)
East Brunswick-Trinity (K. Starzer-Farrell)	Pennington (H. Anderson, G. Coleman, D. Norris, W. Traubel, C. Walker)
Ewing-Covenant (S. Bonner, C. Hecky, D. Lovitt)	Perrineville (C. Heller)
Farmingdale (H. Dunbar)	Shrewsbury (J. Davies)
Hamilton Square (M. Meduski, J. Woodman)	Slackwood C. Belles)
Hightstown (D. Petrenka)	Tinton Falls (S. Buckley)
Iselin (B. Christensen)	Titusville (K. Schmidt)
Jamesburg (D. Chase)	Toms River (G. Bright)
Lakehurst (B. Seidel)	Trenton First (J. Malloy)
Lakewood Hope (P. Williams)	Trenton Westminster (D. Byers)
Lawrenceville (W. Simpson, D. Sung, G. Vanderwal)	Woodbridge (M. Hora)
	Yardville (G. Hanewald)

The following elders, who are officers, Trustees, Former Moderators, were present: Cherry Oakley, Linda Gilmore, Sue Henry, Jan Margolis, Daniel Raisch, Nancy Stout, Walter Vincent.

Also, in attendance were:

Ilene Black (Staff), Edward Carlson, Rev. Lee Catoe, Rev. Shelley Donaldson, Donna Gilmore, Jordan Heinzl-Nelson, Lee Herrick, Destini Hodges, Rev. Kirk Johnson, Edward Kostrowski, Rev. Paul La Montagne, Marie Luthringer (Staff), Isabel Orris, Rev. John Potter, Rev. Paul Quevedo, Kathy Ramsay, Rev. Dale Selover, Bonnie Slocum, Rev. Nancy Talbot,

The stated clerk introduced Elder Destini Hodges, Interim YAV Coordinator and Rev. Lee Catoe, Associate for Young Adult Ministry for the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy and the Managing Editor of *Unbound: An Interactive Journal of Christian Social Justice*

There was a motion to seat the following as corresponding members: Elder Destini Hodges, Interim YAV Coordinator, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Rev. Lee Catoe, Middle Tennessee Presbytery, Rev. Shelley Donaldson, Presbytery of Southern New England, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Presbytery of NYC, Rev. Paul La Montagne, Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ, **Approved.**

The Rev. Sue Smith, Acting Stated Clerk provided Zoom instructions for recognition and voting.

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Report of the Stated Clerk

The consent agenda was presented for approval:

Consent Agenda

- 1) Approval of the docket for this meeting
- 2) Approval of the minutes of the May 11, 2021 presbytery meeting as circulated
- 3) Receive the COM report (Appendix A)
- 4) Receive the CPM report (Appendix B)

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda. **Approved.**

Business docketed at this meeting included:

The Presbytery Convenes with Prayer
 Land Acknowledgement
 Worship
 Seating of Corresponding Members
 Zoom Instructions
 Report of the Stated Clerk
 YAV Commissioning
 Report of the Synod Administrative Commission
 Committee on Ministry
 Core Transition Team
 Unfinished Business
 Motion to Adjourn
 Closing Prayer

The Stated Clerk read correspondence from Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson II, Stated Clerk of the General Assembly. (Appendix C)

It was moved and seconded to adopt the Distribution of Ruling Elder Commissioners Plan to ensure that, insofar as possible, equal numbers of ministers of the Word and Sacrament and ruling elders are present to vote in presbytery meetings. The plan is as follows:

1. Each session will elect one ruling elder commissioner.
2. In addition, the following sessions will elect:
 - a. ***three additional ruling elder commissioners, for a total of four: Toms River***
 - b. ***two additional ruling elder commissioners, for a total of three: Allentown, Cranbury, Lawrenceville, Manasquan, Metuchen, Nassau, Tower Hill***
 - c. ***one additional ruling elder commissioner, for a total of two: Brick, Dayton, Dutch Neck, East Brunswick Trinity, Ewing Covenant, Forked River, Hamilton Square, Hightstown, Ocean, Pennington, Point Pleasant, Rumson, Shrewsbury, Woodbridge, Yardville***

Please note that those ruling elders who are serving as Presbytery Moderator(s), or as members

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of the Board of Trustees or Council, also have voice and vote in Presbytery meetings. This is above and beyond any other commissioners those sessions are entitled to send. **Approved.**

Elder Jan Margolis assumed the role of moderator.

YAV Commissioning

Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia explained the order of the commissioning for Jordan Heinz-Nelson's year of service as a Young Adult Volunteer in Dundee, Scotland. Pam Mellman, YAV Site Coordinator in Scotland, provided a video welcoming Jordan and explaining what the year would entail. Jordan spoke of her excitement to be part of this program. A liturgy was shared by Destini Hodges, Lee Catoe, Cherry Oakley, Jan Margolis, Diane Ford, Nancy Tindall, Sue Smith and Lindsay Anderson-Beck.

Synod Administrative Commission

Elder Nancy Tindall reported for the NJ Missional Communities AC. The AC is looking for members of nominating committee and board of trustees. She provided job descriptions and a nominations form.

Elder Tindall moved that the stated meetings of the presbytery for the remainder of the transition period be scheduled on September 28, 2021, November 23, 2021 and January 25, 2022.

Approved.

Elder Cherry Oakley assumed the role of moderator.

Committee on Ministry

Rev. Jessica Dixon led a retirement prayer for Rev. Kathryn Mustaro.

Rev. Dixon introduced Rev. Paul Quevedo, candidate for the installed pastor position at Forked River Presbyterian Church. Rev. Quevedo was examined and it was moved that the call and terms of call between Forked River Presbyterian Church and Rev. Paul Quevedo, effective August 15, 2021 be approved. Rev. Quevedo will be enrolled in this installed relationship under the provisions of the Formula of Agreement. The COM affirms that the PNC has complied with all EEOC Requirements. **Approved.** Rev. Dixon closed this time with a prayer for Paul's ministry.

Terms of Call:

Cash Salary:	\$38,000	BOP Dues	\$22,200
Housing Allowance:	\$22,000	Auto	\$2,000
Social Security Offset:	\$4,590	Study Leave	\$1,500
31 days vacation, 14 days study leave			

It was moved to approve the following charge for a Special Administrative Review Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton:

Upon request of the Session, and with the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, a Special Administrative Review Commission (G-3.0108b and G-3.0109b) is appointed to consult with the Session and members of the First Presbyterian Church of

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Trenton concerning the issues facing the congregation and the use of its facilities. The special administrative review commission will be formed with the following members:

- Elder Sam Bonner
 - Elder Bill Charleroy
 - Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen
 - Elder Cherry Oakley
 - Rev. Alan Olson
 - Rev. Sam Yenn-Batah
-
- to have authority to review all financial, membership, and other records
 - to have authority to review all session and congregational meeting minutes
 - to have authority to review all professional opinions on building maintenance
 - shall be present with voice at all session and congregational meetings
 - to convene Session and congregational meetings and
 - to make recommendations as to the future of the congregation, staff and use of its buildings.

Approved.

It was moved to approve the request from the First Presbyterian Church of Titusville to transfer to the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey, if the way be clear. The way be clear was identified as: The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey approve the transfer into their bounds, the NJ Missional Communities AC recommend that the Synod Commission approve, the Synod Commission recommend that the GA Mid-Council AC approve, and that the GA Mid-Council AC approves. **Approved.**

Elder Jean Woodman offered a prayer for the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton and the First Presbyterian Church of Titusville.

Core Transition Team

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio reported on the work of the Core Transition Team. Since the last presbytery meeting, the NJ Missional Communities AC has taken on the role of the presbytery council, which freed the Core Team to dream dreams. In this time of transition they have not run out of grace. Rev. Lovaglio reported that there is a communications plan. The website is up, but needs photos of our congregations at worship and work. The team has developed a media release form that can be used by any congregation. There will be a process for choosing a new name for the presbytery announced in the next weeks.

Rev. Chris Houtz, liaison to the Justice petal team, described a program that has been developed by John Fong: Be Like Water: Asian American Allies. This program is described as “Allies and Practices to face hate against the Asian American Community.” The program is currently sponsored by the New York City Presbytery. A motion was made for the presbytery to be a New Jersey Sponsor for Be Like Water. This includes promotion and recommending potential allies and experts to provide content for the program. **Approved.**

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Rev. Diane Ford assumed the role of moderator.

Unfinished Business

Rev. Ford thanked the Allentown Presbyterian Church for virtually hosting the presbytery meeting.

Adjournment

The Presbytery adjourned at 8:53pm to reconvene on September 28, 2021, at 6:30pm.

The Co-Moderators, Rev. Diane Ford, Elder Jan Margolis and Elder Cherry Oakley offered the closing prayer.

Attest: Rev. Sue Smith, Acting Stated Clerk

COM Report to June 22, 2021, Presbytery meeting

The Committee on Ministry met on June 4 and June 16 and recommends the presbytery:

- Approve the Call and Terms of Call between Forked River Presbyterian Church and Rev. Paul Quevedo, effective at a date to be determined, and if the way be clear by congregational approval. COM approves that Rev. Quevedo will be enrolled in this installed relationship under the provisions of the Formula of Agreement. The COM affirms that the PNC has complied with all EEOC requirements.
- Approve the following charge for a Special Administrative Review Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton:

Upon request of the Session, and with the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry, a Special Administrative Review Commission (G-3.0108b and G-3.0109b) is appointed to consult with the Session and members of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton concerning the issues facing the congregation and the use of its facilities. The special administrative review commission will be formed with the following members:

 - Elder Sam Bonner
 - Elder Bill Charleroy
 - Rev. Karen Hernandez-Granzen
 - Elder Cherry Oakley
 - Rev. Alan Olson
 - Rev. Sam Yenn-Batah

- to have authority to review all financial, membership, and other records
 - to have authority to review all session and congregational meeting minutes
 - to have authority to review all professional opinions on building maintenance
 - shall be present with voice at all session and congregational meetings
 - to convene Session and congregational meetings and
 - to make recommendations as to the future of the congregation, staff and use of its buildings.
- Approve the request from the First Presbyterian Church of Titusville to transfer to the Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey, if the way be clear.

The COM approved the following motions:

- to elect Rev. Jessica Dixon as moderator of the interim COM and to give her the authority to send out e-votes
- to approve the MIF for installed pastor for Brick Presbyterian Church.
- to approve the MIF for installed associate pastor for First Presbyterian Church Red Bank Tower Hill.

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- to approve the Rev. Donald Pitches to labor in the bounds of the Presbytery of Central NJ as moderator and occasional pulpit supply at Grace Presbyterian Church, Kendall Park.
- to approve the Rev. Casey Aldridge's membership status as a student at an academic institution effective June 15, 2021.
- to approve the change of address for the New Brunswick Presbyterian Church to 1212 Livingston Ave in New Brunswick, when the way is clear
- to approve the Rev. Ken Good's membership to member-at-large, effective April 30, 2021.
- to approve the Rev. Marcus Lambright as moderator of Kingston Presbyterian Church.
- to joyfully and with celebration, approve the request of the Reverend Kathryn Mustaro and confer upon her the title of Honorably Retired effective May 31, 2021.
- to joyfully and with celebration, approve the request of the Reverend Paul Rhebergen and confer upon him the title of Honorably Retired effective August 1, 2021.
- to joyfully and with celebration, approve the request of the Reverend Doug Hughes and confer upon him the title of Honorably Retired effective August 1, 2021.
- to approve the Rev. Nidia Fernandez as the moderator at Iglesia Nueva Vida.
- to approve Elder Bisi Shofu as the moderator of Christ Presbyterian Church.

The COM approved the following motion by e-vote between meetings:

- to appoint:
 - Rev. James Klotz, moderator of the Slackwood Presbyterian Church
 - Rev. Wendi Werner, moderator of the Pierce Memorial Presbyterian Church
 - Rev. Jan Koczera moderator of the Hamilton Square Presbyterian Church.

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Appendix B

Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry

For the Consent Agenda:

On 7 June 2021, acting on behalf of the presbytery, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry voted

- to advance Ellen White (Pennington) from inquirer to candidate status,
- and to certify candidate Inna Nikolyyukin (Lawrence Road) approved to negotiate for ministerial service.



OFFICE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
REV. DR. J. HERBERT NELSON, II
STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

April 19, 2021

Sue Smith
Stated Clerk
Presbytery of Central New Jersey
28 Page Drive
Atlantic Heights, NJ 07716

Dear friends in the Central Presbytery of New Jersey,

Congratulations on reaching this significant stage in the process of re-envisioning your identity as a missional community as well as an ecclesiastical presbytery. Your Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) family across the denomination honors the difficult work in which you have been engaged and is praying for you as you continue to transition toward being a vital church in the 21st century.

May God bless your mission in the name of Jesus Christ,

In the Faith that we share,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "J. Herbert Nelson, II".

Reverend Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, II
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Cc: Rev. Tricia Dykers Koenig