# PRESBYTERY OF THE COASTLANDS MEETING ON ZOOM TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 2021

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Coastlands, held on Zoom, on Tuesday, November 23, 2021, was called to order at 6:32pm by the moderator, Elder Jan Margolis, who opened the meeting with prayer. She acknowledged that land within our geographical bounds was taken from those who were native to the land, specifically the Munsee Lenape and the Lenni Lenape.

# Worship

Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett preached on Romans 12:12a and Matthew 25: 31-40. Music was provided by the Community Presbyterian Church of Edison.

# Roll of Presbytery's Commissioners

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

Ashley Bair (V) Natalie Bell (V) Barbara Booth (HR) Cynthia Bowman (HR) James Brumm (V) Dave Davis (V) Walter De Gunya (V) Jessica Dixon (V) Kyle Doebler (V) James Dunson (V) Marguerite Dykstra (V) Nidia Fernandez (V) Gary Filson (V) Diane Ford (V) Frederick Garry (V) Linda Goeddel (HR) Katja Gruening (V) Charles Holm (HR) Linda Hora (HR) Christopher Houtz (V)

Mary Jane Inman (V) Christian Johnson (V) Larissa Kwong Abazia (HR) Marcus Lambright (V) Jenny Lee (V) Marcia Lewis (V) Robert Louer III (V) Hannah Lovaglio (V) Emily Lueder (V) Lauren McFeaters (V) Gordon Mikoski (V) Carrie Mitchell (V) John Monroe (V) William Morris (V) Lori Neff LaRue (V) Alan Olson (V) Cynthia Parker (HR) Joanne Petto (V) Jean Pinto (HR) Paul Quevedo (V)

Molly Ramsey (V) Nina Reeder (HR) Marianne Rhebergen (HR) Paul Rhebergen (HR) Dale Rounds (V) Ann Schoonover (V) Byron Shafer (HR) Thomas Sheffield (HR) Susan Smith (HR) Theresa Swenson (AL) Mark Terranova (V) Glory Thomas (V) Julie Thompson-Barrier (V) Jan Willem Van der Werff (V) Wendi Werner (V) David Widmer (V) Phyllis Zoon (HR)

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The following ministers laboring in the bounds were present:

Donna Lepsky

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

Allentown (Jeffrey McLaughlin, Beth Rigby,

Nancy Tindall)
Avenel (Gay Patro

Avenel (Gay Patrouch) Brick (Marty Haluza) Cranbury (Ken Gordon)

Dutch Neck (David Redman, Jennifer Sabol)

Ewing-Covenant (Pamela Miller) Farmingdale (Howard Dunbar)

Grace South Brunswick (Peter Godinez) Hamilton Square (Michael Meduski, Paul Neu)

Hightstown (Dilys Henninger) Iselin (Andrea Harrison)

Jackson Cornerstone (Linda Van Melis)

Jamesburg (Diana Chase)

Lakewood Hope (Patty Williams) Lawrence Road (Susan Anderson)

Lawrenceville (David Sung, Tom Wilfrid)

Matawan (Glenn D'Antuono) Metuchen (Jan Margolis) Millstone (Claude Heller) Nassau (Carol Wehrheim)

New Brunswick (Barbara Meyer) Ocean (Del Dunert, Randall Stolze) Pennington (Dee Norris, Nancy Russell) Toms River (Graham Bright, Daniel Raisch) Trinity East Brunswick (Paula Riepl, Kathryn

Starzer-Farrell)

Westminister Trenton (Angela Belmont)

Witherspoon St. (Kevin Gift)

Woodbridge (Michael Hora, Linda Thorstenson)

Yardville (Gloria Hanewald)

The following elders, who are officers, Trustees, and Former Moderators, were present: Timothy Brown, Sue Henry, Cherry Oakley, Walter Vincent, Jean Woodman.

#### Also, in attendance were:

Ilene Black (Staff), Molly Boysen, Marla Edwards, Rev. Joyce Emery, Elder Barbara Flythe, Lynne Foreman, Lorrie Haluza, Rev. Carlton Johnson, Elder Sal Lalama, Marie Luthringer (Staff), Elder Jane Malloy, Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, Elder Allison Neary, Elder Michelle Peal, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Rev. Ron Thompson, Elder Terri Youn,

There was a motion and a second to seat the following as corresponding members: Rev. Dr. Diane Moffett, Salem Presbytery, Rev. Carlton Johnson, Greater Atlanta Presbytery, Lynn Foreman, Mission Engagement Specialist, Presbyterian Mission Agency, Rev. Joyce Emery, Olympia Presbytery, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Presbytery of NYC, Rev. Ron Thompson, Presbytery of Northeast NJ, Elder Sal Lalama, NJ Missional Communities AC, Elder Terri Youn, NJ Missional Communities AC. **Approved.** 

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

The moderator called on Rev. Christian Johnson to do a short piece on building community and relationships using Facebook.

# **Report of the Stated Clerk**

The consent agenda was presented for approval:

- 1) Approval of the docket for this meeting
- 2) Approval of the minutes of September 28, 2021 presbytery meeting
- 3) Approve the COVID Meeting Policy (Appendix A)
- 4) Receive the Trustees minutes (Appendix B)
- 5) Receive the Commission on Ministry Report (Appendix C)
- 6) Receive the Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report (Appendix D)
- 7) Receive the Acting Stated Clerk's Report (Appendix E)

A motion and was made and seconded 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

Matthew 25 Resources

Vital Congregations Initiative

Triennium

Report of the NJ Missional Communities Administrative Commission

Core Transition Team

Nominating Committee

Trustees

Commission on Ministry

**Unfinished Business** 

Motion to Adjourn

**Closing Prayer** 

#### **Matthew 25 Resources**

Lynne Forman, Mission Engagement Specialist, Presbyterian Mission Agency, provided an overview of the resources for the Matthew 25 initiative. She showed a video thanking all of the Matthew 25 churches, those churches giving to all four special offerings and those churches that have contributed to the Giving Catalog.

# **Vital Congregations Initiative**

Rev. Carlton Johnson, Associate of Vital Congregations, Presbyterian Mission Agency, shared about the program and the 7 marks of a vital congregation.

Elder Cherry Oakley assumed the role of moderator.

### **Synod Administrative Commission**

Elder Nancy Tindall and Elder Sal Lalama reported for the NJ Missional Communities AC.

Elder Tindall asked people to consider serving on the presbytery nominating committee. She also said there will most likely be a called special presbytery meeting on February 22, 2022.

Elder Lalama related that the search committee has a tentative candidate for the Gap Presbytery Leader. More information will be provided when the formal offer is accepted.

#### **Core Transition Team**

Rev. Hannah Lovaglio reported for the Core Transition Team. She reported that a roundtable with members representing the Trustees, the Core Team, the Co-moderators, the AC and the staff is meeting to ensure transition deliverables are met. She also announced that there will be town hall conversations about the proposed presbytery staffing plan.

# **Nominating Committee**

Rev. John Monroe presented the slate for nominations:

# **Commissioners for the 225th General Assembly**

Ruling Elder, Dilys Henninger, First Hightstown Ruling Elder, Elizabeth Rigby, Allentown Teaching Elder, George Erlandson, Community Church Edison Teaching Elder, Rory Chambers, First Dutch Neck YAAD, Molly Boysen, Trinity East Brunswick YAAD alternate, Jillian Schneider, First Hightstown

# **Synod Mission and Ministries Commission:**

Teaching Elder, Sue Smith, Parish Associate, First Rumson YAAD, Brielle Lacroix, Allentown

### **Committee on Ministry:**

Ruling Elder, Jeffrey McLaughlin, Allentown Teaching Elder, Glory Thomas, Oak Tree, Edison

After asking for nominations from the floor it was moved to close the nominations and elect the slate. **Approved.** 

#### **Trustees**

Rev. Fred Garry reported for the Trustees, who have been putting policies in place, and working on the issues surrounding the Boy Scouts of America. It was moved to set the 2022 per capita rate at \$40. **Approved.** 

There was a five minute break. Rev. Diane Ford assumed the role of moderator.

# **Commission on Ministry**

Rev. Jessica Dixon reported for the Commission. It was moved to approve the continuation of the minimum terms for the three preceding Presbyteries for the churches within the former bounds of each, and including the following change to the Social Security Offset for 2022:

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7.65% of Effective Salary up to \$147,000 and 1.45% of any amount in excess of \$147,000.

# Approved.

Approved.

It was moved to approve the call for Rev. Julie Thompson-Barrier as designated minister of the Presbyterian Church on the Hill. This call is an exception per G-2.0504c, and the Presbytery shall establish the relationship by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting. The Terms of Call are as follows:

Cash Salary	\$42,800	Professional Expenses	\$6,000
Housing Allowance	\$40,000	FSA Deduction	\$2,750
Board of Pension Dues	\$32,546	Social Security Offset	\$6,415
403b Contribution	\$3,000		

The retirements of Rev. Barbara Booth Jarmon and Rev. Marianne Rhebergen were celebrated. Lorrie Haluza and Rev. Linda Goeddel offered words on the ministry of Rev. Booth Jarmon. Rev. Joyce Emery offered words on the ministry of Rev. Rhebergen.

Rev. Dixon offered a prayer for Revs. Booth Jarmon and Rhebergen.

Rev. Dixon introduced Rev. Ashley Bair, Interim Associate Minister at First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen and Rev. Carrie Mitchell, Church Consultant for the Northeast and the Mid-Atlantic for the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) They each said a few words about their experience.

#### **Unfinished Business**

There was no unfinished business.

### Adjournment

The Presbytery adjourned at 8:51pm to reconvene on January 25, 2022, 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

# The Presbytery of the Coastlands

*Empowering congregations and people of faith to transform the world.* 

#### POLICY REGARDING COVID PRECAUTIONS AT PRESBYTERY-RELATED EVENTS

Recognizing that the need to take precautions can vary in different parts of the state and that individuals will have varying degrees of comfort regarding meeting in person, the following guidelines should be followed for all meetings or worship called for presbytery purposes. These guidelines are NOT intended to direct the meetings and worship of individual churches.

### **Meetings of Full Presbytery**

Until further notice, all full presbytery meetings will be conducted via Zoom.

### **Presbytery Committee or Small Group Meetings**

Committees and small groups may meet in person, but the following must be observed:

- 1. Meetings must take place in rooms with good ventilation and that are large enough to enable participants to observe safe social distancing.
- 2. Everyone in attendance will wear masks regardless of vaccination status.
- 3. A virtual meeting option must be made available for members who are not comfortable meeting in person.

#### **Worship Services**

All those attending and leading worship services related to presbytery business – for example, ordinations and installations – will follow the COVID safety precautions in place at the host church. If the technology is available, remote access to presbytery worship services should be offered.

approved by the Core Transitional Team November 11, 2021

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THE PRESBYTERY OF CENTRAL NJ

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Central NJ was called to order on Wednesday, September 15 at 2:03 PM via Zoom, and opened with prayer by Rev. Fred Garry.

#### Attendance:

Elder Tim Brown	P	Elder Robert Carson	P	Rev. Dave Davis	P
Rev. Fred Garry, President	P	Elder Kurt Kaboth	P	Rev. Jenny Lee	P
Rev. Robert Louer	P	Rev. Andrew Scales	P	Rev. Theresa Swenson	P
Elder Jean Woodman	P	Elder Linda Gilmore,	P	Rev. Larissa Kwong	P
		Interim Treasurer, ex-		Abazia, Presbytery	
		officio		Leader, ex-officio	
Rev. Sue Smith, Acting	P				
Stated Clerk, ex-officio					

The minutes of the August 25, 2021, meeting were approved.

Linda Gilmore shared the August 2021 financials for the former New Brunswick Presbytery, as there is not yet consolidated reporting.

It was moved and seconded to approve the purchase and acquisition of a manse by Tower Hill, the First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank. The down payment is \$355,530 and the encumbrance is \$829,570. **Approved.** 

There was a discussion about the House of Hospitality in Trenton. The building is owned by Central NJ Presbytery and is used by a separate nonprofit organization that does not pay rent. The Presbytery insures the property and the nonprofit pays the taxes. The non-profit organization has a desire to dissolve and have the House of Hospitality become a mission of the presbytery. It was moved and seconded to do the due diligence and have the home inspected in the near future. If the nonprofit dissolves before the completion of the due diligence, the Trustees will move toward selling the property. **Approved.** The treasurer will communicate this decision to interested parties.

It was moved and seconded to approve the following resolution:

The Trustees of the Presbytery of Central New Jersey hereby resolve that the following persons are empowered to act on behalf of the Presbytery, individually, or where required, together, in regards to accounts with financial institutions including bank accounts arid brokerage accounts, including but not limited to trading authority with New Covenant Funds and New Covenant Trust Company.

Linda H. Gilmore, Interim Treasurer Susan E. Smith, Acting Stated Clerk **Approved.**  Bob Carson, Bob Louer and Jean Woodman will serve as a sub-committee to develop language around the legacy funds and the usage of those funds to distribute to the presbytery. There was a discussion on building a list of people who might serve on Administrative Commissions for closing churches. Everyone was asked to consider people they know in the presbytery or people in their congregations who might be gifted for this service.

There was a discussion about churches completing a facility master plan. Fred Garry will draft a proposal to discuss at the next meeting.

Dave Davis, Linda Gilmore and Andrew Scales will work on drafting a policy on the sale of church property: how to designate the monies that come to the presbytery and guidelines for money to be used as a legacy in the community.

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Wednesday, October 20, 2021, at 2:00 PM via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 3:19 PM with prayer by Rev. Theresa Swenson.

Attest, Rev. Sue Smith, Acting Stated Clerk

# MINUTES OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES THE PRESBYTERY OF THE COASTLANDS

The regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of the Coastlands was called to order on Wednesday, October 20, 2021 at 2:04 PM via Zoom, and opened with prayer by Rev. Fred Garry.

### Attendance:

Elder Tim Brown	Е	Elder Robert Carson	Е	Rev. Dave Davis	P
Rev. Fred Garry, President	P	Elder Kurt Kaboth	P	Rev. Jenny Lee	Е
Rev. Robert Louer	P	Rev. Andrew Scales	Е	Rev. Theresa Swenson	P
Elder Jean Woodman	P	Elder Linda Gilmore,	P	Rev. Sue Smith,	P
		Interim Treasurer, ex-		Acting Stated Clerk,	
		officio		ex-officio	

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda:

- Approve Agenda
- Approve minutes of the September 15, 2021 meeting
- Approve contract with Paradigm Technology Consulting to provide technical support to staff, including the optional cloud back-up

### Approved.

There was no update on the Legacy Funds, Sale of Property Policy, or House of Hospitality. All continue to be worked on.

There was a general discussion on the proposed staffing structure and how to fund it with per capita and other monies.

There was a motion to write off the Urban Fund loans to Christ Presbyterian Church and Iglesia Nueva Vida totaling \$17,000. **Approved.** 

The next scheduled meeting of the Board of Trustees is Wednesday, November 17, 2021, at 2:00 PM via Zoom. The meeting was adjourned at 3:23 PM with prayer by Rev. Fred Garry.

Attest, Rev. Sue Smith, Acting Stated Clerk

# Presbytery of the Coastlands Commission on Ministry Report November 23, 2021

# At its October 5, 2021 meeting the Commission voted to approve:

The call of Rev. Ashley Bair as interim minister of the First Presbyterian Church of Metuchen effective September 27, 2021. The Terms of Call are as follows:

Cash Salary	\$42,000	Reimbursable expenses (by Voucher):
Manse Allowance	\$21,000	Travel and Ministry \$3,000
Utilities Allowance	\$3,000	Continuing Education \$1,800
Board of Pension Dues	\$24,420	Cell Phone \$ 600
Social Security Offset	\$ 5,049	Moving Costs (up to) \$2,000

The contract and terms of call for Rev. Julie Thompson-Barrier as designated minister of the Presbyterian Church on the Hill. If the way be clear and the congregation approves, this call is subject to G-2.0504c, and the Presbytery shall establish the relationship by a three-fourths vote of the members present and voting. (This exception will be brought to the presbytery meeting for vote.) The Terms of Call are as follows:

Cash Salary	\$42,800	Professional Expenses	\$6,000
Housing Allowance	\$40,000	FSA Deduction	\$2,750
Board of Pension Dues	\$32,546	Social Security Offset	\$6,415
403b Contribution	\$3,000		

Rev. Linda Goeddel to moderate the congregational meeting of the Presbyterian Church on the Hill on October 17, 2021, called to nominate and elect a new pastor.

The request of Rev. Carlos Rivera and confer upon him the title of Honorably Retired effective August 31, 2021.

The request of Rev. Marianne Rhebergen and confer upon her the title of Honorably Retired effective November 1, 2021.

The request of Rev. Barbara Booth-Jarmon and confer upon her the title of Honorably Retired effective November 1, 2021.

Rev. Chris Houtz to moderate the session and congregation meetings for the First Presbyterian Church of Avenel.

Changing the status of Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia to Member At Large, effective October 1, 2021.

# The following e-votes were approved between meetings:

1. Rev. Thomas Sheffield as the moderator for the Brick Presbyterian Church.

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2. Rev. Molly Dykstra as the moderator for the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton through December 31, 2021.

- Dates and constituting the Administrative Commissions for the following installations:
  - Rev. Katja Gruening at the Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury on November 13, 2021 at 2pm: Rev. Diane Ford, moderator, Elder Iris Quinones-Ramos, Principe de Paz, Elder Ken Gibbons, Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury, Rev. Jason Tucker, Tower Hill, Rev. David Widmer, Hope Tinton Falls, Elder David Redman, Dutch Neck.
  - Rev. Paul Quevedo, Forked River Presbyterian Church, November 14, 2021 at 4pm: Rev. Diane Ford, moderator, Rev. Jessica Dixon, Tennent, Rev. William Morris, Belmar, Elder Linda Gilmore, Forked River, Elder Karen Hale, Toms River, Elder Jim McGuire, Point Pleasant.
  - Rev. Kyle Doebler at the First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square on November 21, 2021 at 3pm: Rev. Diane Ford, moderator, Rev. George Erlandson, Edison Community, Elder Ida Beth Malloy, Trenton, Jean Woodman, Rev. Gordon Mikoski, Princeton Theological Seminary, Rev. Wendi Werner, Dayton, Elder David Redman, Dutch Neck.

Validating the ministry of Rev. Carrie Mitchell as Church Consultant on the staff of the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Receiving Rev. Carrie Mitchell from Genessee Valley Presbytery effective November 2, 2021.

The amended terms of call for Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia and Rev. Susan Smith effective September 1, 2021.

Larissa Kwong Abazia: Susan Smith: Cash: \$28,000 Cash: \$0

Housing Allowance: \$60,000 Housing: \$43,202

Social Security Offset: \$6,732 Social Security Offset: \$3,305 Professional Expenses: \$2,000 Professional Expenses: \$1,500 Continuing Education: \$3,000 Continuing Education: \$\$1,500

Ministers Choice: \$8,800 Total: \$49,507

Total: \$108,532

The contract between Rev. Walter De Gunya and West Trenton Presbyterian Church, effective through July 31, 2022:

9 Months/YR

a. \$5,304/\$7,072 Base Salary (per year, paid twice monthly)

b. \$18,000/\$24,000 Cash Housing Allowance (per year, paid twice monthly)

c. \$1,896/\$2,528 Social Security Offset

d. \$4,800/\$6,400 Reimbursable Expenses (paid monthly, and vouchered in

accordance with IRS requirement)

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One full week of paid vacation each quarter, including a Sunday, which is to be taken during the period of the contract

A minimum of 2 weeks of study leave, including 2 Sundays.

Elder David Apy as the moderator of the session of Lakewood Hope Presbyterian Church.

The MIF for the Yardville Presbyterian Church.

# Report of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry November 23, 2021

At its October 4 meeting, the Commission on Preparation for ministry voted to certify Inna Nikolyukin of Lawrence Road Church ready for examination by a presbytery, pending a call.

At its November 1 meeting, the Commission on Preparation for Ministry took the following actions:

- CPM voted to advance Yun Ja (Linda) Kwak of Nassau Church to candidacy status.
- CPM voted to certify Ashia Stoess of Brick Church ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call.
- CPM voted to certify Christopher Renshaw of Nassau Church ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call.
- CPM voted to certify Jon Rodriguez of First Church of Dutch Neck ready for examination by a presbytery for ordination, pending a call.

# Report of the Acting Stated Clerk November 23, 2021

The following installations have taken place:

- On October 4, 2021, Rev. Natalie Bell was installed at the First Presbyterian Church of Matawan. The following people served on the Administrative Commission: Rev. Diane Ford, Moderator, Elder Mike Meduski, Hamilton Square, Elder Jerel Chacko, Matawan, Rev. Linda Goeddel, Honorably Retired, Rev. Barbara Booth, Brick.
- On October 10, 2021, Molly Ramsey was ordained and installed at the Point Pleasant
  Presbyterian Church. The following people served on the Administrative Commission: Elder
  Cherry Oakley, Moderator, Rev. Janice Ammon, Princeton Theological Seminary, Rev.
  Melissa Martin, Hopewell, Rev. Samuel Yenn-Batah, Penn Medicine Princeton Health, Elder
  James McGuire, Point Pleasant, Elder Dan Raisch, Toms River, Elder Ellen White,
  Pennington.
- 3. On October 24, 2021, Mark Terranova was ordained at Trinity Presbyterian Church in East Brunswick. The following people served on the Administrative Commission: Elder Cherry Oakley, Moderator, Elder LeeAnn Smith, Trinity, Rev. Wendi Werner, Dayton, Rev. Bill Morris, Belmar, Rev. Doug Chase, HR, Elder Hance Sitkus, Pierce Memorial, Elder Nancy Steel, Belmar, Rev. Ed Hoener, Trinity, Rev. Linda Goeddel, HR, Rev. Byron Shafer, HR.
- On November 13, 2021, Rev. Katja Gruening was installed the Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury. The following people servced on the Administrative Commission: Rev. Diane Ford, moderator, Elder Iris Quinones-Ramos, Principe de Paz, Elder Ken Gibbons, Presbyterian Church at Shrewsbury, Rev. Jason Tucker, Tower Hill, Rev. David Widmer, Hope Tinton Falls, Elder David Redman, Dutch Neck.
- On November 14, 2021, Rev. Paul Quevedo was installed at the Forked River Presbyterian Church. The following people served on the Administrative Commission: Rev. Diane Ford, moderator, Rev. Jessica Dixon, Tennent, Rev. William Morris, Belmar, Elder Linda Gilmore, Forked River, Elder Karen Hale, Toms River, Elder Jim McGuire, Point Pleasant.
- On November 21, 2021, Rev. Kyle Doebler was installed at the First Presbyterian Church of Hamilton Square. The following people served on the Administrative Commission: Rev. Diane Ford, moderator, Rev. Larissa Kwong Abazia, At Large, Elder Ida Beth Malloy, First Trenton, Elder Mike Meduski, Rev. Gordon Mikoski, Princeton Theological Seminary, Elder David Redman, Dutch Neck, Rev. Wendi Werner, Dayton.