

March 22, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

**PRESBYTERY OF THE COASTLANDS MEETING ON ZOOM
TUESDAY, MARCH 22, 2022**

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of the Coastlands, held on Zoom, on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, was called to order at 6:30pm by the moderator, Rev. Wendi Werner, who opened the meeting with prayer. She acknowledged that land within our geographical bounds was taken from those indigenous to the land, specifically the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape, Ramapough Lenape and the Powhatan Renape.

Worship

Rev. Samuel Yenn-Batah preached on Psalm 102:1-22, “Arise”. Musicians from Brick Presbyterian Church, Trinity Presbyterian Church, and Rev. Rory Chambers offered the music.

Roll of Presbytery’s Commissioners

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

Kyle Anderson (V)	Frederick Garry (V)	Jean Pinto (HR)
Lindsay Anderson-Beck (V)	Linda Goeddel (HR)	Paul Quevedo (V)
Marie Bacchiocchi (V)	Katja Gruening (V)	Molly Ramsey (V)
Ashley Bair (V)	Stephen Heinzl-Nelson (V)	Matthew Rhodes (V)
Natalie Bell (V)	Edmund Hoener (V)	Len Scales (V)
Cynthia Bowman (HR)	Charles Holm (HR)	Ann Schoonover (AL)
David Bowman (V)	Linda Hora (HR)	Byron Shafer (HR)
Christine Bridge (V)	Mary Jane Inman (V)	Jonathan Shenk (AL)
James Brumm (V)	James Klotz (V)	Susan Smith (V)
Richard Bundy (HR)	Marcus Lambright (V)	Mark Terranova (V)
Rory Chambers (V)	Chang Woo Lee (V)	Glory Thomas (V)
Douglas Cornelius (V)	Jenny Lee (V)	Julie Thompson-Barrier (V)
Lisa Day (V)	Marcia Lewis (V)	Jeffrey Vamos (V)
Walter De Gunya (V)	Hannah Lovaglio (V)	Jan Willem Van der Werff (V)
Miriam Diephouse-McMillan (V)	Emily Lueder (V)	Wendi Werner (V)
Jessica Dixon (V)	Gordon Mikoski (V)	David Widmer (V)
Sharyl Dixon (V)	Nancy Mikoski (V)	John Williams (HR)
Gary Filson (HR)	William Morris (V)	Samuel Yenn-Batah (V)
Diane Ford (V)	Alan Olson (V)	Robbie Ytterberg (V)
	Joanne Petto (V)	

The following ministers laboring in the bounds were present: Donna Lepsky

The following Commissioned Ruling Elders were present: Julissa Alvarez-Garcia, Rick LaFever

March 22, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

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

Allentown (Jeffrey McLaughlin, Nancy Tindall)	Matawan (Jerel Chacko, Kristin Schoelkopf)
Avenel (Hanna Pallitto)	Metuchen (JoAnne Bedenek, James Krauszer, Gary Ostermueller)
Brick (Elaine Salto, Christy Tompkins)	Millstone (Claude Heller)
Cornerstone (Linda Van Melis)	Nassau (William Creager, Carol Fagundus)
Cranbury (Ken Gordon)	New Brunswick (Barbara Meyer, Ekpoanwan Onyile)
Dutch Neck (David, Redman, Peggy Redman)	Oak Tree (Jeffrey Reeves)
Ewing-Covenant (Helen Kull, William Olson)	Plainsboro (Lisa Minich)
Farmingdale (Howard Dunbar)	Pt. Pleasant (Craig Lambie)
Forked River (Linda DeLotto)	Principe de Paz (Iris Quinones-Ramos)
Freehold (Julie Heinsohn)	Slackwood (Shirley Hafford)
Grace Kendall Park (Peter Godinez)	Tinton Falls Hope (Inez Brown)
Hamilton Square (Michael Meduski)	Toms River (Daniel Raisch)
Iselin (Andrea Harrison)	Trenton First (Jane Malloy)
Jamesburg (Diana Chase)	Westminster Trenton (Angela Belmont, David Byers)
Kingston (Florence Diaz)	Woodbridge (Michael Hora)
Lakewood First (Annmarie Gilman)	Yardville (Gloria Hanewald)
Lakewood Hope (Chris Earle, Patty Williams)	
Lawrenceville (Jeanne Aicher, Brent Ferguson, Alison Young)	
Martin Luther King, Jr. (Tyrone Laws)	

The following elders, who are officers, Trustees, Council members, and Former Moderators, were present: Timothy Brown, Brad Clifton, Jan Margolis, Kathryn Starzer-Farrell, Jean Woodman.

Also, in attendance were:

Ilene Black (Staff), Rev. Dee Cooper, Kendall Cox (Living Waters for the World), Elder Linda Gilmore, Elder Diane Legreide, Marie Luthringer (Staff), Elder Johnny Morales, Elder Sandra Phillips, Elder Adebisi Shofu, Elder Greg Slonaker, Elder Carl Stillwell, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Elder Barbara Truscinski.

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

There was a motion and a second to seat the following as corresponding members: Rev. Dee Cooper, Denver Presbytery, Rev. Nancy Talbot, New York City Presbytery, and Kendall Cox, Director of Education, Living Waters for the World. **Approved.**

Report of the Acting Stated Clerk

The consent agenda was presented for approval:

- 1) Approval of the docket for this meeting
- 2) Approval of the minutes of February 22, 2022, presbytery meeting
- 3) Receive the Commission on Ministry Report (Appendix A)
- 4) Receive the Commission on Preparation for Ministry Report (Appendix B)
- 5) Append the 2021 Annual Statistics Report to the minutes of this meeting (Appendix C)

March 22, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

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
- Zoom Instructions
- Seating of Corresponding Members
- Report of the Acting Stated Clerk
- Old Business
- Report of the Gap Presbytery Leader
- Report of the Board of Trustees
- Report of the Council
- Living Waters for the World
- Report of the Committee on Representation
- GA Overture Concurrences
- Unfinished Business
- Motion to Adjourn
- Closing Prayer

Old Business

A motion was made and seconded to amend Chapter III, Section 3 of the Presbytery of the Coastlands Bylaws to read: The quorum for meetings of the Presbytery shall be not fewer than 10% of the ruling elder commissioners from different congregations and an equal number of ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are members of the presbytery and who are either honorably retired or from different institutions. **Approved.**

Report of the Gap Presbytery Leader

As this presbytery moves toward the search for new staff leadership, Rev. Dee Cooper spoke to the role of mid-council leadership. The role is evolving from doing all the work to working collaboratively with committees – to inviting conversation and not doing the work of a committee. Mid-Council leaders are allies, moving shared values forward.

Report of the Board of Trustees

Rev. Fred Garry moved to approve the Investment Policy of the Presbytery of the Coastlands. After discussion, there was a substitute motion to replace the policy with the memorandum to the Presbytery (Appendix D) to affirm the direction of the policy while the Interim Board of Trustees work to finalize the policy. **Approved.**

Report of the Council

Elder Kathryn Starzer-Farrell moved to approve the amendments to the standing rules on Administrative Commissions and Special Administrative Review Commission and Investigating Committee (Appendix E). **Approved.** She then moved to approve the standing rule on the Stated Clerk – Nomination and Election (Appendix F). **Approved.**

March 22, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

There was a five minute break.

Living Waters for the World

Kendall Cox, Director of Education for Living Waters for the World, presented about the work of the organization and noted that the meeting was held on World Water Day. She told stories of their work around the world and how they work in partnership with communities with contaminated water. She asked that we think about how God calls our churches to be part of this ministry. Churches can pray, they can go to work, and they can be funders.

Report of the Committee on Representation

Elder Dan Raisch reported that the committee is looking to nominate two search committees. One is for the Co-Presbytery Leaders and the second is for the Stated Clerk.

GA Concurrences

There was a motion and second to concur with Overture [VIOL-08] On Living in Healthy Relationships Free of Violence and Coercion submitted by Pittsburgh Presbytery. Rev. Alan Olson spoke to the overture. **Approved.**

There was a motion and second to concur with Overture [POL-11] On Establishing a Task Force to Explore the Theology and Practice of Ordination to Ordered Ministry for Ruling Elders submitted by San Fernando Presbytery. Rev. Linda Goeddel spoke to the overture. **Approved.**

There was a motion and a second to delegate the appointment of overture advocates to the Council. **Approved.**

Unfinished Business

There was no unfinished business.

Adjournment

The Presbytery adjourned at 9:01pm to reconvene on June 28, 2022, at 6:30pm on zoom.

Rev. Wendi Werner offered the closing prayer.

Attest: Rev. Sue Smith, Acting Stated Clerk

COMMISSION ON MINISTRY REPORT
THE PRESBYTERY OF THE COASTLANDS
MARCH 22, 2022

The following e-vote was approved between meetings:

- Motion: to approve Rev. Nina Reeder as the moderator for the session of First Presbyterian Church Trenton. (February 15, 2022)

At its March 1, 2022, meeting the Commission voted to approve:

- The February 1, 2022 stated meeting minutes.
- The February 9, 2022, called meeting minutes.
- The installation of Rev. Julie Thompson-Barrier as designated pastor of The Presbyterian Church on the Hill on March 27, 2022 and the following members of the Administrative Commission: Elder Annie Pantoja, Matawan, Rev. Alan Olson, Freehold, Rev. Byron Shafer, HR, Rev. Diane Ford, Lincroft, Rev. Linda Goeddel, HR, Rev. Cindy Wilcox, Chaplain, Elder Ed DeNicola, Red Bank, Elder Del Kunert, Ocean, if the way be clear and the Moderator is able to preside, or find an alternate for that date.
- To elect Rev. Jessica Dixon and Rev. Nina Reeder as co-moderators of the Gap COM.
- The contract of Rev. Molly Dykstra as Property Project Facilitator of the First Presbyterian Church of Trenton for the period of February 1, 2022, through May 31, 2022, at an annualized rate of \$105,000, if the way be clear and the ministry is validated.

March 22, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

Appendix B

**Presbytery of the Coastlands Commission on Preparation for Ministry
March 7, 2022**

At its March 7, 2022, meeting, the Commission on Preparation for Ministry took the following action:

- Voted to advance Margaret Brungard of the Matawan church to candidate status

2021 Presbytery Statistical Report

Presbytery Coastlands
Address 617 Hope Chapel Rd, Lakewood, NJ 08701
Phone 609-532-4625 **Fax**
Email info@coastlandspresbytery.org
Web Site coastlandspresbytery.org



Membership

Prior Active Members **13346** Adjusted membership **13350**

Gains

Certificate **49**
 Youth Professions **125**
 Professions & Reaffirmations **193**

Losses

Certificate **54**
 Deaths **239**
 Deleted for any Other Reason **715**

Total Gains **367**
Total Ending Active Members **12709**

Total Losses **1008**

Baptisms

Presented by Others **180**
 At Confirmation **7**
 All Other **9**

Average Weekly Worship Attendance **4522**
 Female Members **6932**
 Friends of the Congregation **1370**
 Ruling Elders on Session **625**
 Do you have Deacons? Yes / No **54 / 9**

Age Distribution of Active Members

25 & Under **1664**
 26 - 40 **1727**
 41 - 55 **2047**
 56 - 70 **2877**
 Over 70 **2882**
Total Age Distribution **11197**

People with Disabilities

Hearing impairment **531**
 Sight impairment **181**
 Mobility impairment **517**
 Other impairment **556**

Christian Education

Birth - 3 **176**
 Age 4 **133**
 Kindergarten **114**
 Grade 1 **124**
 Grade 2 **189**
 Grade 3 **146**
 Grade 4 **175**
 Grade 5 **164**
 Grade 6 **164**

Grade 7 **122**
 Grade 8 **158**
 Grade 9 **183**
 Grade 10 **134**
 Grade 11 **152**
 Grade 12 **138**
 Young Adults **294**
 Over 25 **1711**
 Teachers/Officers **533**
Total Christian Education **4810**

Racial Ethnic

Asian/Pacific Islander/South Asian **397**
 Black/African American/African **432**
 Middle Eastern/North African **28**
 Hispanic/Latino-a **252**

Native American/Alaska Native/Indigenous **8**
 White **10177**
 Multiracial **202**
Total Racial Ethnic **11496**

Financial Data

Annual Income **27,145,520**
 Annual Expenses **22,111,136**

Mission Expenses **2,344,860**
 Personnel Expenses **11,793,501**
 Facilities Expenses **4,676,184**

March 22, 2022

To: The Presbytery of the Coastlands
From: The Interim Trustees
Re: Investment Policy

Included in this document you will find a draft Investment Policy for managing the assets of the presbytery. The Interim Trustees will be asking for approval of this policy at the March 22, 2022, presbytery meeting. The strategy of the policy is to invest our assets so to provide an annual draw to sustain our daily operations, the administration, and mission of the presbytery.

This strategy has three values.

Transparency. The amount and purpose of all funds will be clear as will be their usage.

Avoiding the “Reserve” path. Using a reserve fund keeps cash on hand, but it often leads to a slow depletion or a lack of realistic budgets. This investment policy will provide an annual draw to sustain the presbytery as well as allow the investment to grow.

Per Capita limit. In order to adequately staff and support a healthy presbytery, we need to develop a long-term strategy of funding beyond per capita. This policy provides that opportunity.

Challenges

In spite of the advantages listed above, there are limitations. This is a long-term strategy that tends to restrict usage and thus limit opportunities. There is also the concern that once investments are created they become valued more than the mission. There are risks involved in this direction. Yet, the possibility of stable income where per capita is not our sole income is worth it.

Administrative Commissions (G-3.0109b) and Special Administrative Review Commissions (G-3-0108b)

The Presbytery of the Coastlands has the authority to appoint an Administrative Commission (AC) or a Special Administrative Review Commission (SARC). The scope of the work will be detailed in the warrant to for the AC or SARC. This authority shall not be delegated. The Moderator in consultation with a Presbytery Leader(s), the Stated Clerk and the Chair of the Commission on Ministry shall have the authority to appoint ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders to serve on an AC or SARC, reporting such appoints to the Presbytery.

The Commission on Ministry shall have the authority to approve an Administrative Commission to Ordain and/or Install a person once the presbytery has approved the ordination or installation.

Investigating Committee

When an allegation is brought according to the Rules of Discipline, the Stated Clerk in consultation with a Presbytery Leader(s), the Moderator and the Chair of the COM shall have the authority to appoint ministers of Word and Sacrament and ruling elders to serve on an Investigating Committee, reporting such appointments to the next stated meeting of the Presbytery.

In cases of allegation of sexual misconduct the Investigating Committee is formed by the Stated Clerk as per the Sexual Misconduct Policy (3.c.iv) approved by the Presbytery at its March 23, 2021 meeting.

The Investigating Committees are charged to make determination of the sufficiency of evidence to bring charges against the accused.

Stated Clerk – Nomination and Election

The Stated Clerk shall ordinarily be elected and installed at the first meeting of the calendar year of the Presbytery of the Coastlands. The Committee on Representation shall nominate and Presbytery elect a Stated Clerk Search Committee. This Search Committee shall nominate a candidate; nominations from the floor will be entertained.

The Term of Service shall be three years or until a successor is elected. The Stated Clerk may stand for re-election.

In the event that the Stated Clerk resigns or no longer can serve, the Council shall appoint an Acting Stated Clerk, who shall be a ruling elder or minister of Word and Sacrament, until such time as the Presbytery is able to elect a successor.