

May 10, 2022 – Zoom Meeting

**PRESBYTERY OF THE COASTLANDS MEETING ON ZOOM
TUESDAY, MAY 10, 2022**

The special called meeting of the Presbytery of the Coastlands, held on Zoom, on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, was called to order at 6:30pm by the moderator, Rev. Wendi Werner, who opened the meeting with prayer. She discussed the reasoning for acknowledging that land within our geographical bounds was taken from those indigenous to the land, and read a statement from the Nanticoke Lenni-Lenape who along with the Lenni-Lenape and Ramapough were indigenous to the land.

Roll of Presbytery's Commissioners

The Acting Stated Clerk announced that a quorum was present. The following ministers were in attendance:

Kyle Anderson (V)	Charles Holm (HR)	Jean Pinto (HR)
Lindsay Anderson-Beck (V)	Linda Hora (HR)	Victoria Pruner (V)
Cynthia Bowman (HR)	Christopher Houtz (V)	Paul Quevedo (V)
Rory Chambers (V)	James Klotz (V)	Susan Smith (V)
David Davis (V)	Larissa Kwong Abazia (HR)	Shannon Smythe (V)
Lisa Day (V)	Marcus Lambright (V)	Theresa Swenson (AL)
Jessica Dixon (V)	Jenny Lee (V)	Mark Terranova (V)
Kyle Doebler (V)	Carrie Mitchell (V)	Glory Thomas (V)
Gary Filson (HR)	John Monroe (V)	Julie Thompson-Barrier (V)
Frederick Garry (V)	Lori Neff LaRue (V)	Wendi Werner (V)
Linda Goeddel (HR)	Alan Olson (V)	John Williams (HR)
Stephen Heinzl-Nelson (V)	Cynthia Parker (HR)	
Karen Hernandez-Granzen (V)	Joanne Petto (V)	

The following Commissioned Ruling Elders were present: Rick LaFever

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

Allentown (Emily Capiello, Jeffrey McLaughlin, Joseph Monaghan)	Jamesburg (Diana Chase)
Brick (Christy Tompkins)	Lakewood First (Annmarie Gilman)
Community (Kathy Ramsey)	Lakewood Hope (Patty Williams)
Cornerstone (Linda Van Melis)	Lawrenceville (Meghan Henry, David Sung)
Cranbury (Ken Gordon)	Martin Luther King, Jr. (Tyrone Laws)
Dutch Neck (David, Redman, Carl Stillwell)	Matawan (Chris Fiore, Simon Tse)
East Brunswick-Trinity (Beverly Bodor, Paula Riepl)	Metuchen (James Krauszer, Gary Ostermueller)
Ewing-Covenant (William Olson)	Nassau (Janet Roman)
Farmingdale (Howard Dunbar)	New Brunswick (Ekpoanwan Onyile)
Forked River (Linda DeLotto)	Oak Tree (Laura Reeves)
Freehold (Berwin Guttormsen)	Plainsboro (Lisa Minich)
Grace Kendall Park (Peter Godinez)	Slackwood (Andrea Moore)
Hamilton Square (Michael Meduski)	Toms River (Daniel Raisch)
Highstown (Dilys Henninger, Karen Klimpl)	Westminster Trenton (David Byers, Adebisi Shofu)
	Woodbridge (Michael Hora)

The following elders, who are officers, Trustees, Council members, and Former Moderators, were present: Kathryn Starzer-Farrell, Walt Vincent, and Jean Woodman.

Also, in attendance were:

Rev. SanDawna Ashley, Ilene Black (Staff), Rev. Dee Cooper, Marie Luthringer (Staff), Elder Peggy Redman, Elder Beth Rigby, Rev. Nancy Talbot, Elder Nancy Tindall, and Elder Clarke Walker.

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. SanDawna Ashley, Minnesota Valleys Presbytery, and Rev. Nancy Talbot, New York City Presbytery, **Approved.**

The Acting Stated Clerk read the call for the meeting:

The stated purpose of the meeting is to:

- Appoint an Administrative Commission for the First Presbyterian Church of Lakewood.
- Celebrate the service of the Acting Stated Clerk
- Elect a member of the Permanent Judicial Commission, class of 2024.
- Elect a search committee for the Stated Clerk position
- Elect a search committee for the Presbytery Co-Leader positions,

A motion was made and seconded to approve the Call and the Docket. **Approved.**

First Presbyterian Church of Lakewood Administrative Commission

It was moved to approve the Warrant for the First Presbyterian Church of Lakewood

Administrative Commission (Exhibit A). **Approved.** It was moved to appoint Elder Jeff McLaughlin, Allentown, Rev. Molly Ramsey, Point Pleasant, and Rev. Julie Thompson-Barrier, Ocean to the Administrative Commission. **Approved.**

Celebrate the Service of the Acting Stated Clerk

The following offered words of appreciation for Sue: Rev. Stephen Heinzl-Nelson, Rev. Fred Garry, Rev. Dee Cooper, and Rev. Linda Goeddel. Linda informed the body that the gift money collected will be shared with Sue, Clean Water Action and Waterspirit. Wendi closed the time with a prayer.

Nominations

Elder Kathy Ramsey presented the slates for nominations.

Permanent Judicial Commission, Class of 2024

Elder Noel Tonneman, Tower Hill. **Approved.**

Stated Clerk Search Committee

Elder Joyce Davies, Shrewsbury
Elder Rowena Mascoll, Witherspoon Street
Elder Peggy Redman, Dutch Neck
Elder Kim Tsimbinos, Tower Hill, Red Bank
Elder Carol Wehrheim, Nassau
Rev. John Williams, Honorably Retired
Elder Laura Reeves, Oak Tree

Approved.

Co-Presbytery Leaders Search Committee

Elder Julissa Alvarez-Garcia, Principe de Paz
Molly Boysen, Trinity East Brunswick
Elder Diana Chase, Jamesburg
Elder Debbie Chen, Trinity East Brunswick
Rev. David Hallgren, Pennington School Chaplain/Teacher
Elder Jan Margolis, Metuchen
Muya Wamahui, Community
Elder Don Pillsbury, Lawrence Road
Rev. Matt Rhodes, Penn Medicine
Elder Dilys Heninger, Hightstown

Approved.

Adjournment

The Presbytery adjourned at 7:33pm with prayer by Rev. Wendi Werner, to reconvene on June 28, 2022, at 6:30pm on zoom.

Attest: Rev. Sue Smith, Acting Stated Clerk

**Warrant
for an
Administrative Commission
of the Presbytery of the Coastlands
the First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, NJ**

This motion is a request that the Presbytery of the Coastlands at its Special Called Meeting on May 10, 2022, create and empower an Administrative Commission for the purpose to assist, care and administer responsibilities for the dissolution of the First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, NJ,

1. The Commission shall be granted the following powers and responsibilities:
 - a. If appropriate, assume original jurisdiction of the session, on behalf of the presbytery, after providing members of the congregation an opportunity to be heard as set forth in G-3.0303e.
 - b. To provide for the continuing spiritual and pastoral care of the remaining members of the First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood. To help as requested by the members to identify a new home where they might transfer their membership. While the ministry of the First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, in this form is coming to an end, God is not through with these disciples, and they understand their faith journey to still be interconnected. The nature of this connection and path forward will require ongoing discernment.
 - c. Undertake information-gathering and discernment as follows:
 - 1) Obtain all session and congregational minutes, records, documents, committees, employee, and other material the commission deems necessary to do its work.
 - 2) Identify and assess the financial status and relevant outstanding financial obligations including per capita payments that may be owed by the church and:
 - a) Conduct a financial review of the congregation's books.
 - b) Determine location and balance of all accounts.
 - c) With any endowment or memorial accounts, determine if there are any bequest stipulations.
 - d) Determine any outstanding debts/obligations.
 - e) Identify, inventory and assess the value of all real property and furnishings/contents owned by the congregation, including any deed restrictions or stipulations
 - f) Work with the groups currently using the facility, to insure that their vital work is cared for.
 - d. Dissolve the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, on behalf of the presbytery, at a date of its determination, with attention to the following tasks:
 - 1) Obtain all Session minutes, church registers, and other records for transfer to the presbytery and eventual deposit with the Presbyterian Historical Society.
 - 2) Consult with the session and congregation to determine if they wish to memorialize their congregation and its history of Presbyterian and Reformed mission and ministry through gifts aligned with presbytery policy to particular

Presbyterian mission and ministry, the Presbytery, Synod or General Assembly, making recommendations to the presbytery and its Trustees for the eventual dispersal of accounts and property.

- 3) Following the dissolutions, transfer any remaining balances to the Presbytery and close all remaining accounts.
- 4) Assert the claim of the Presbytery to any property of the First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, congregation not known at this time or property which may come as beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.
- 5) Recommend to the Presbytery, if necessary, withdrawal of the commissioned ruling elder commission and review G-2.1002 with the Commissioned Ruling Elder.
- 6) Plan and, as appropriate, lead an appropriate final service of worship for the congregation in its place of worship.
- 7) Plan and lead an appropriate celebration of the congregation and its ministry at the next stated meeting of Presbytery, during which the records may be symbolically handed to the Stated Clerk.
- 8) Assist the congregation in selling the church property in consultation with the Board of Trustees, and in conversation with the Gap Round Table.
 - a) Determine if any furnishings or contents might continue in Christian mission and ministry within the presbytery.
 - b) Arrange for the disposition of furnishings not needed by the presbytery and, in consultation with the congregation, determine if any furnishings are to be used to create a memorial to the work of the congregation at another location within the presbytery.
- 9) Should the congregation be dissolved before acceptable purchasers of the building can be found, secure the legal rights to the properties and provide for its ongoing care, including:
 - a) Secure a clear title to the property in consultation with the Trustees, determine if there is no obvious presbytery use of the properties, and list the properties for sale.
 - b) Transfer title of the property to the Coastlands Presbytery.
 - c) Have the property listed on the Presbytery's property and liability insurance coverage.
 - d) Assure the integrity of the legal corporate status of the church. If incorporated, secure the local Articles of Incorporation.
 - e) Determine which utilities should remain connected and which may be disconnected and make these arrangements with the proper companies.
 - f) Arrange with the Presbytery's financial administrator for any ongoing utility payments.
 - g) Secure the building and make provision for any continued use of the property by groups, previously hosted by or renting from the church.
 - h) Make provisions for a caretaker until the final disposition of the property, including mowing the lawn and maintenance of any sidewalks.
- e. Assist the members in transferring their membership to another PC(USA) congregation, if desired.

- f. Consult, as necessary, with the Commission on Ministry at all stages of the outlined process.
- g. Document all actions taken in detail in both its own minutes and, when exercising the duties of session, in the minutes of Sessions.
- h. Report to Coastlands Presbytery all actions taken.

In undertaking these actions, the Administrative Commission shall be sensitive to the memory, heritage, and concerns of the members of the First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood.

The Administrative Commission shall invite at least one representative of the First Presbyterian Church, Lakewood, to participate in its work with voice but without vote.

Membership in this Administrative Commission shall be by appointment of the Moderator, in consultation with the acting stated clerk, the gap presbytery leader and an interim COM leader. It shall include at least 3 members and appointments shall be announced at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery.

Rev. Sue Smith, Acting Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of the Coastlands