

The Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey

Presbyterian Church (USA)

STATED MEETING

#11

First Presbyterian Church, Ridgewood

and Online Via Zoom

September 16, MMXXIII

ATTENDANCE.

See Attached Appendix I for attendance. All others excused at their request or absent.

MINUTES.

Call to Order.

In accordance with the bylaws and electronic meeting policy of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey, the 11th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey was called to order on Saturday, September 16, 2023. It was a Hybrid meeting, both in person in the sanctuary at First Ridgewood and using ZOOM technology. The meeting was called to order at 9:39 am (EDT), by the Co-Moderator Rev. Dan Martian (Livingston) and opened with prayer. The meeting docket was arranged in a worshipful work format in which the elements of worship are interspersed with the business of the body.

A quorum was present.

Rev. Bruce Ballantine, host pastor welcomed presbyters and oriented them to comfort facilities.

Rev. Martian led the presbytery in a **call to worship** and **opened the meeting with prayer**.

Stated Clerk.

Teaching Elder Jeremy T. Campbell (Stated Clerk), presented the report of the Stated Clerk. He presented the Consent Agenda.

Consent Agenda —

- 1) Approve the Docket for this meeting.
- 2) Approve the Minutes of the May Stated Meeting, and August Special Meeting as circulated.
- 3) Approve the Excuses collected at the meeting.
- 4) Receive the Finance Committee's Report. (See Appendix II)
- 5) Receive the minutes and Report of the Vision Team. (See Appendix III)
- 6) Receive the Report of the COM with the exception any Items called out for Presbytery Action.
(see Appendix IV)
- 7) Receive the report of the Organizing Co-Leader and Resource Presbyter (See Appendix V)

- 8)Receive the interim report of the Administrative Commission serving the Calvin Linden congregation.
(See Appendix VI)
9)Approve Request from Roseland to sell their Manse. (See Appendix VII)

The Presbytery **VOTED** to enact the items on the Consent Agenda.

Living our Mission — through our finances.

Finance Team.

Elder Rick Friedl presented the report of the **finance committee**. He shared information about the **work which they have done so far**. Their written report can be found [here](#). He recommended on behalf of the team, and the presbytery **VOTED** that the **Per Capita Rate for 2023 be reduced to \$38 per member**, noting that because of over head savings and better use of some of the various funds that the presbytery could increase its mission spending even with this reduction.

COM report.

Rev. Bobbie Arrowsmith presented part 1 of the report of the COM. She shared the commissions recommendation of a **3% increase to the minimum terms of call**, and **recommendation that all pastoral salaries be increased at least 3% in 2024**. It was **VOTED** to enact this recommendation. She shared that COM will be back with **other edits to the minimum terms of call** necessitated by GA's decision to require 12 weeks of "Family Medical Leave" **in November** but wanted to present the salary increase now so that congregations can budget.

Rev. Martian led the presbytery in a prayer of confession and the gloria patri was sung.

Living our Mission — In our Communities and World.

International Peacemaker Gaia Magdalena Luczak shared about her **work with refugees in Poland**. Refugees from Ukraine along the Polish border with Russia are being treated poorly. There is great needs and few resources. She shared compelling first person stories and encouraged people to both raise awareness of the ongoing refugee crisis and to get involved if possible in supporting those working with refugees.

Living our Mission — Hearing God's word.

Following a **sermon#** by mission coworker **Rev. Elmarie Parker** **Elder Jerome Lane, Jr.** shared with presbyters about how the former church **Wolff Memorial** has been transformed into a community ministry center with many partners engaged in ministries there. He also shared about **grants awarded** by the **Grants Commission** and **Community Ministries** commission.

Living our Mission: Giving.

A presbytery **worship offering** was collected to support **the international peacemaker and Rev. Parker**.

The Lord's Supper

The Co-Moderators of the presbytery **Rev. Martian and Pastor Peterson** presided at the celebration of the **Lprd's Supper**.

COM report (Part 2).

Rev. Bobbie Arrowsmith presented part 2 of the report of the COM. The recognized recent pastoral transitions welcoming new pastors to the presbytery and congratulating those in new positions.

Nominating Committee.

Rev. Dr. Deborah Huggins (Summit, Central) presented the Nominating report (see appendix XII)

She placed the slate in nomination. Nominations from the floor were filled into vacant slots. it was **VOTED** to elect the slate including the nominees from the floor. All elected persons are listed in the slate in the appendix which follows.

Adjourn.

The docket having reached its end, and the moderators hearing no new business, the Presbytery **VOTED** to adjourn following the small groups, and the meeting was closed with prayer and benediction offered by Pastor Doris Peterson (Co-Moderator).

Attest:

Jeremy T. Campbell
Stated Clerk

Hybrid Presbytery Gathering - September 2023 Custom Questions (1)

Name	RegistrationType	I will be attending this meeting	Congregation or Presbytery where you are a member.
OBAJI AGBIJI	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ
Seihoon Ahn	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	True Light Church
Kwabea Ako-Addo	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	First Presbyterian & Trinity, South Orange NJ
Bobbie Arrowsmith	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Honably Retired
Nadia Ayoub	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	WMA
Jin Bae	Request Absence	Minister Member of PNENJ	First Presbyterian Church of Cranford
Linwood Bagby	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Second Presbyterian Church
Bruce Ballantine	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	First Presbyterian Church of Ridgewood NJ
Chris Belden	Request Absence	Minister Member of PNENJ	Northeast New Jersey
Ruth Boling	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey
Richard Boyer	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNNJ
Heather Brannon	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Wyoming Presbyterian Church
Karen Brelowski (Karen)	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Townley
Suzanne Broffman	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Leonia Presbyterian Church
Jon Brown	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Old Bergen Church
Revered Howard Bryant	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Elisabeth Presbytery
Bill Burdick	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	West Side Presbyterian Church - Ridgewood
Roxanne Burrus	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Elmwood United Presbyterian Church
Edward Clydesdale	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ
Richard Copley	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Livingston
Lorraine Cuffie	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	First Presbyterian Church, Irvington
Martha Curry	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	United Presbyterian Church of West Orange
Joan Davies	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	First Ridgewood
Martha Day	Zoom Registration	Commission Pastor / CRE	Bethel(EO) Lyndhurst & Moonachie
Linda DiDario	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Willow Grove, Scotch Plains
John Dusinberre	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	The First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
Bromley Edwards	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	First Presbyterian and Trinity
Tom Eicher	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	Elizabethport Presbyterian Center
Mary Eimer	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Presbyterian Church at Tenafly
Matthew Englert	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	First Presbyterian Cranford, NJ
Roberto Fois	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Presbytery of the NORTHEAST New Jersey
Trudi Folkes	In-Person Registration	Guest / Visitor	PNENJ
Elaine Foster	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	Claremont-Lafayette United Presbyterian Church
Leah Fowler	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ
Rick Friedl	In-Person Registration	Convener / Chair of a Presb	First Pres Ridgewood
Susan Friedl	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Pnenj
Ethelyn Fulton	Zoom Registration	Past Presbytery Moderator	Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green
Debra G	In-Person Registration	Commission Pastor / CRE	Wallington Presbyterian Church
Joseph Garabedian	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Armenian Presbyterian Church
Shelley Gardner	Request Absence	Minister Member of PNENJ	Foundation staff
Debra Given	Request Absence	Minister Member of PNENJ	Retired
Doris Glaspy	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ
Jupiaci Gomes	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Hillside Millennium Presbyterian church
Michael Granzen	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Second Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth
Gayle Griffin	Zoom Registration	Member of the Vision Team	Roseville Church

Nana-Yaa Gyasi	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	First Irvington
Patricia Haddon	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Central Presbyterian Church
Ethan Harris	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Westfield
Loretta Hazelwood	In-Person Registration	Guest / Visitor	Elizabeth Avenue-Weequahic Presbyterian Church
Sheryl Heffernan-Winkler	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	First Presbyterian Church of Maywood
Ed Hoener	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ
Allegra Hoots	Request Absence	Commission Pastor / CRE	United presbyterian church Plainfield
Greg Horn	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Upper Montclair
Melinda Hunt	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Claremont Lafayette United Presbyterian
Steve Huston	In-Person Registration		
Christian Iosso	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ as interim minister of Connecticut Farms Presbyterian Church
David Jahnke	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	fanwood
Denise Kennedy	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	First Presbyterian Church, Irvington
Lou Kilgore	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ
Stephen Kim	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	True Light Church
Yung Kim	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Protestant Abbey Mission
Charles Kramer	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Wyoming Presbyterian Church
J Lee	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	Northeast
Yongmin Lee	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	The True Light Presbyterian Church
Jeffrey Leininger	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	This one
Guillermo Lopez	Zoom Registration	Commission Pastor / CRE	First Ridgefield Park & West New York Churches
Kenneth Macari	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Fanwood
Linda Macari	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Fanwood Presbyterian Church
Glenn Maciag	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Bloomfield Presbyterian Church on the Green
Marie Malajian	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	South Presbyterian Church, Bergenfield
Dan Martian	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Livingston
Steven McClelland	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	FPC Hackensack
Barbara McLaughlan	Request Absence	Past Presbytery Moderator	Prebyterian Church in Westfield
Elizabeth McNair	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	First Pres. Hackensack
Danny Mitchell	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Northeast NJ Presbytery
Helen Mosley	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	SH First Elizabeth
Dave Myers	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Highlands, Allendale
Rhonda Myers	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Verona
Rebecca Neville	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Pres. of Northeast New Jersey
Valencia Norman	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	First Presbyterian & Trinity South Orange
Osby Nuesch	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	South Presbyterian Church in Bergenfield
Milton Nunez-Coba	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ
Milton Núñez-Coba	Request Absence	Minister Member of PNENJ	La Iglesia Nueva Esperanza
Grace Nzameyo	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Elizabeth Weequahic PC
Grace Nzameyo	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	EAWPC
Deborah Oosterbaan	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Roseland Presbyterian church
Elizabeth Parks	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	Osceola Prebyterian Church
Patricia Pastás	In-Person Registration	Certified Christian Educator	PNENJ
Maria Patiño	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	PNENJ
Doris Peterson	In-Person Registration	Member of the Vision Team	Elizabeth Avenue-Weequahic PC
Laura Phillips	In-Person Registration	Past Presbytery Moderator	Pres Church of Upper Montclair
Barbara Piercy	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Northeast NJ

Elizabeth Resch	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	First Presbyterian Church at Caldwell
Emily Rishel	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Grace Montclair
Martin Ritchie	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Presbyterian Church at Tenafly
Bonnie Ruggiero	Zoom Registration	Past Presbytery Moderator	Willow Grove, Scotch Plains
Lynn Santulli	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Crescent Avenue Presbyterian Church
William Schram	Request Absence	Minister Member of PNENJ	Caldwell
ALLEN SHELTON	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Pastor, Watchung
Jung Shim	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	Truelight Church
Brooks Smith	In-Person Registration	Convener / Chair of a Presb	PNENJ
Kee So	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Grace and Love Presbyterian Church
Timothy Son	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Presbyterian Church in Norwood
George Spina	In-Person Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Memorial West
Lawrence Stephens	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	UPC-Paterson
Timothy. Tarantino	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Watchung Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield, NJ
Alice Taylor	Zoom Registration	Guest / Visitor	Claremont Lafayette UPC
Judy Tharaud	Zoom Registration	Past Presbytery Moderator	Millburn wyoming
The Presbyterian Church in	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	The Presbyterian Church in Westfield
Ron Thompson	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Townley
Betty Tom	Zoom Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Presbytery of the Northeast New Jersey
Joanne Van Sant	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	Friends to Friends Community Church
Jen Van Zandt	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	1st Pres Springfield
Justin Warner	Request Absence	Minister Member of PNENJ	First Presbyterian Church of Rutherford, NJ
Joo Whang	In-Person Registration	Minister Member of PNENJ	True Light PC
Georgianna Williams	Zoom Registration	Ruling Elder Commissioner	Bethel Presbyterian Church, East Orange, N.J.
Skip Winter	Zoom Registration	Convener / Chair of a Presb	First Presbyterian Cranford
Kirk Woodward	In-Person Registration	Commission Pastor / CRE	Fewsmith Memorial Presbyterian Church

Report of the Finance Committee
September 14th 2023

From our meeting in May, we brought forth 5 key actions and activities we were working on to better the position of the Presbytery for the short and long term. Below are the 5 actions we presented and their status, as well as one proposal for your vote:

1. Position our investments with the Presbyterian Foundation and Asset Capital Managers to generate annual revenue / income to support the activities of the Presbytery while growing our overall equity positions. To date, we have met with both the Foundation and ACM to review our strategy and positions. Though the Presbyterian Foundation is a closed looped system (i.e. they take no input from us nor do we have a chance to remove our funds), we are earning 4.5% in 2023 and will earn 4% in 2024. From the ACM side, we have set up the “sidecar” within our portfolio where dividends paid from our investments are deposited and earning current money market rates (5.25% to 5.5%). This money will support the budget without reducing our investment portfolio.
2. The full audit of the 2021 fiscal year is still ongoing. Though we anticipated this being completed by our Sept meeting, there is still a page of items that we need to provide to the audit team for them to complete the audit. As we continue to try to find information from our formation, we are confident this will be completed in 2023. With a prayer and elbow grease, maybe by the November Presbytery meeting.
3. We have been active with the committees in getting input for the 2024 Budget. Liaisons were appointing from our team to each committee. We feel with your help and the input received, we are moving quickly to finalize our 2024 budget. Our goal is to have to budget out to the members by the second half of October for a review. We will then schedule a Q&A ZOOM meeting to receive input, with everything ready for a formal vote during our November Presbytery Meeting.

4. We meet the 3rd Wednesday of each month to review the monthly numbers, discuss ongoing issues and continue to learning from each other how to manage all the moving parts of this 3 in 1 Presbytery. We are blessed with tremendous talent and knowledge making this Committee a true joy to be a part of. Our numbers are solid though August and we are on budget without having to draw a single dollar out of our portfolio to support this year's expenses. If we do need to withdraw any money, it will come from the sidecar with no impact to our investment positions.

5. Lastly, we do communicate regularly with our leadership team. We enjoy a "2-way" street with both Steve and Jeremy where we get input from them and they ask for input from us. We promised to be transparent and communicative. We believe the relationship is excellent and appreciate everyone's support.

We do need to bring one **motion** from the CA&F Committee to this body for a vote. Because of the change in our Facility budget and making use of investment gains in our restricted accounts funds toward Grants, CMC, COM and Prep on Ministry, we are proposing to **reduce 2024 Per-Capita to \$38** vs the expiring \$40. This reduction will not impact our budget, but actual allow us to increase total mission spending. Your support for this reduction is appreciated.

Presented in your service,

Capital Assets & Finance Committee
Richard J Friedl – Chair

Vision Team
DRAFT minutes 6/27/2023

Attendance

Members

Kirk Woodward
Gayle Griffin
Linwood Bagby
Joanne Van Sant
Marcus Lambright
Dave Myers
Wanda Lundy
Doris Peterson
Jeremy T. Campbell
Steve Huston

Excused

Dan Martian
Denise Kennedy
Maria Santa
Leah Fowler
Berj Gulleyan
Roger Widicus
Debbie Murphy

Vision Team met for its regular meeting on zoom at 4:00 PM on June 27th 2023.

As this was the first meeting of the Vision Team after the switchover for terms introductions of those present were facilitated.

The team spent time debriefing the hybrid presbytery meeting. The small groups were appreciated. It was felt that the technology went very well. Jerome, Trudi and Somerset Media were thanked for their contributions to that. The hospitality of the host church was also lifted up as excellent. The largest complaint was that voting was a little slow in order to account for those online but it was understood that that comes with the territory. It was agreed that we would continue with a Hybrid meeting in September, and then have November and February online.

Steve then shared about an appreciative inquiry guide which could potentially help us accomplish our visioning process. The goal is to get as much feedback from as many people as possible. People liked the idea, but expressed concerned about the length. There were questions about the difference between interviews and surveys. There was also discussion of engaging the languages we worship in regularly. Hearing from diverse voices is an important value to us. He asked for additional feedback by 7/15.

Gayle Griffin shared about the personnel process that the Admin Operations Team is working on. They are working to roll out a comprehensive review process as well as consideration of future staffing needs.

Jeremy explained that there would likely need to be a special meeting over the summer to create an AC to serve True Light church in Paramus. It was agreed that could be approved by email when the time comes.

Rev Steve Huston closed with prayer at 5:38

Attest

Rev. Jeremy T. Campbell
Stated Clerk/Corporate Secretary

Vision Team
DRAFT minutes 8/22/2023

Attendance

Members

Leah Fowler
Berj Gulleyan
Doris Peterson
Kirk Woodward
Debbie Murphy
Gayle Griffin
Roger Widicus
Linwood Bagby
Joanne Van Sant
Marcus Lambright
Jeremy T. Campbell
Steve Huston

Excused

Dan Martian
Denise Kennedy
Maria Santa
Dave Myers
Wanda Lundy

Vision Team met for its regular meeting on zoom at 4:30 PM on August 22nd 2023.

First addressed were some procedural issues. Acting in their capacity as the trustees of the corporation the Vision team **VOTED** to approve the sale of the former Central Presbyterian Church Newark according to the revised terms of sale, following the latest round of litigation. It is expected that the closing will take place on or about September 1st. While the original sale price was to be \$400,000 the final sales proceeds will now be \$537,500.

A request from Elizabethport Presbyterian Center that the presbytery approve refinance of an existing loan through Pilp was introduced. The current loan through a commercial bank requires Eport to annually reapply including an annual commercial appraisal of the property at their expense and is at a higher than market rate. They have been making timely payments on the loan since its inception about 15 years ago and have paid down the approximately 4 Million load to a current balance of about 2.6 million. Since they are a subsidiary of the presbytery they qualify for a fixed rate loan through PILP. It **VOTED** to approve their loan application.

The bulk of the discussion was around the end of the lease of the current office. Our lease expires at the end of April 2024, and we must give notice to the landlord by the end of October as to our intent to renew or not. Given the high cost of the office, and the relatively infrequent use by anyone other than staff it was recommended by the task group thinking about this, and then **VOTED** by the vision team **not to renew**. There was some discussion of what to do instead, acknowledging that there needs to be a place to receive mail and to store some required files, as well as places for the staff to work, and for meetings to take place. The idea of distributed staff across a few locations in smaller offices, preferably in a church where any rent paid would help go to ministry and mission, had a lot of support. The team working on this will continue to explore possibilities but it was agreed we are moving out of the current space.

Rev. Steve Huston introduced the interview guide which will provide input for the discernment process. This process is based on an appreciative inquiry model. Given the lateness of the hour it was agreed that interviews would be completed in pairs with the feedback and information provided by the end of the month. Once the vision team completes their interviews the same process can be used to gather information from others.

Rev Steve Huston closed with prayer at 5:16.

Attest

Rev. Jeremy T. Campbell
Stated Clerk/Corporate Secretary

*If you have any questions about this report, contact
Stated Clerk Jeremy Campbell prior to the meeting. Telephone: 201-599-1111
Email: jtcampbell@pnenj.org*

Commission on Ministry Report to Presbytery

Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey

September 16, 2023

A. Actions Taken by the Transitions Team (Convener Joan Davis)

June 1, 2023 Meeting

Central Presbyterian Church, Montclair APPROVED the Mission Study

APPROVED a motion to permit the congregation to elect a PNC

First Presbyterian Church – Carlstadt APPROVED the Discernment Report

APPROVED to permit the congregation to elect a PNC.

First Presbyterian Church – Wallington APPROVED the covenant relationship with Debbie Gargiulo to serve as a Certified Lay Pastor with permission to perform the sacraments and moderate the Session.

September 7, 2023 Meeting

Memorial West Presbyterian Church Approved Valencia Norman as Moderator

South Presbyterian Church Approved the Ministry Discernment Profile (MDP)

South Presbyterian Church Approved to extend the interim contract for Rev. Osy Nüesch at the current terms through November 2023.

United Presbyterian Church in Paterson Approved the updated Mission Study and gave permission for their PNC to conduct a designated search with one pastor.

Westfield Presbyterian Church Approved a request from Sara Benedetti, that her call as Associate Pastor be dissolved.

B. Actions taken by the Administrative Team

June 1, 2023 Meeting (Convener Rev. Michael Capron)

Approved the ministry of Rev. Joseph Yoon at a non-PCUSA church.

September 7, 2023 Meeting (Rev. Shelley Gardner, Convener)

Property Transfer Task Force has asked the Administrative Team of COM to review, comment, and consider recommending to Presbytery their work on a “Community Ministry and Mission Assessment.”

Approved The Administrative Team of the COM recommends the adoption of the assessment tool with Presbytery approval. The Team would like for this assessment tool to come before the Presbytery, if appropriate, at the September 16th meeting.

Approved: **Recommendation** that the presbytery raises the minimum compensation for pastors, effective salary, 3% for 2024. Rational: Consumer Price Index currently 3.2% and Cost of Living Calculation (COLA) is expected to be announced in October at 3%.

C. Actions Taken by the Membership Team (Convener Rev. Susan Friedl)

June 1, 2023

Willow Grove Presbyterian Church Approved to receive KPCA Rev. Se Hyuk Park into PNENJ temporary membership to serve as Interim Pastor t. Rev. Park was referred to CPM to complete PCUSA ordination requirements, if the way be clear. Rev. Park is not allowed to moderate Session or serve communion in his role as Interim Pastor.

September 7, 2023

Prospect Presbyterian Church, Maplewood Approved to receive Rev. Jessica Dixon-Ebner into PNENJ membership to serve as Interim Pastor at. The Terms of Call were unanimously approved by consensus and also referred back to the search committee with the request for transfer of the Interim Pastor Covenant Agreement onto the existing PNENJ document.

Approved to grant Rev. Osy Neusch the status Honorably Retired following the completion of his covenant extension at South Church, Bergenfield, with gratitude for his service.

D. General

There was no regular meeting of COM in August, due to the specially called Presbytery meeting.

June 1, 2023 Meeting

The COM APPROVED the Administrative Commission to ordain Michelle Wildritch on June 11th at 4:00 PM

The Commission includes:

RE Doris Peterson

RE Ruth Arriaza
RE Kirk Woodward
RE Elizabeth Lorenzo
TE Deborah Huggins
TE Jeremy Campbell
TE Jennis Lee Salach
TE Sarai Mendez

The COM next meeting is Thursday, October 5, 2023, 7:00 p.m.

September 2023 Co-Leader Report

I imagined things around the presbytery might slow down during the summer while church programs were taking a break, pastor's were vacationing, and church committees didn't meet. That was not the reality. The time since our last stated meeting has been filled responding to numerous phone calls and emails. Most issues could be resolved quickly, "What's the password for posting a position on www.mynextcallpcusa.org?" (the answer is callfinder2022). Other questions were more complicated and involved research and conversations with representatives from places like the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Foundation. Some issues had to be resolved in person (like the sprinkler inspection for an unoccupied church in Bayonne) and so I spent a good deal of my time this summer on the road visiting with sessions, church committees, and pastors. I also got to do some pulpit supply, a couple of last minute fill-ins for a baptism and communion, and attend some congregational celebrations.

When I wasn't on the road resourcing pastors and congregations or responding to calls and emails I was busy with the continued organizational work of the Presbytery. The Administrative Operations Committee was unboarded in June and has begun the necessary work to make sure the Presbytery's policies are in compliance with changes to the Book of Order that took effect this summer. They have also been working to evaluate the Presbytery's staff in order to make informed decisions about future staffing needs, staffing models, and compensation.

Finally, I have been working with presbytery leaders and clerks from around the presbytery and the synod to discuss and create sample policies for mid-councils and congregations in regards to anti-racism, anti-harassment, and boundary training. In addition to these specific policies I have been working on a "Policy on Policies" for the PNENJ that reflects the aspirations expressed in the missional invitation.

To that end, I am also currently reading *Many Voices, One Song* by Jerry Koch-Gonzalez and Ted Rau. The book explores the topic of Sociocracy, a system of self-governance that distributes power throughout an organization in order to create decision making that works for everyone. The more I read, the more I see our own polity following many of the principles outlined in the book. Yet, there are still areas where our polity prevents all voices from being heard and listened to, especially those who have historically been silenced by the "rules".

Steve Huston
Organizing Co-Leader

INTERIM REPORT OF THE CALVIN LINDEN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION TO THE
PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY
September 16, 2023

The Administrative Commission of the Calvin Linden Presbyterian Church has met 21 times since October of 2022. 18 of those meetings have been over zoom and three of those meetings have been with members of the Congregation.

The Administrative Commission is working alongside, in conjunction with the Congregation to discern their future. Over the years, the Slovak population of the Community, which was the mainstay of the Linden Calvin Presbyterian Church has changed. Membership at Linden Calvin has declined, with long-term members retiring and moving away and in other cases, passing away.

The Administrative Commission is in the process of receiving and reviewing current financial reports, including contributions and expenses, current membership rolls and possible opportunities for the church in the future. Monthly financial reports have been received through the end of July 2023 with checkbook balances and New Covenant Fund balances received through July 2023. Insurance information has been reviewed with Brown and Brown based on the coverage from Philadelphia Insurance. An appraisal of the church property and parking lot was performed on August 28th by Ard Associates of Clark, NJ. The results of the appraisal will be available by the end of September.

A final worship service was held on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th, 2023, at 11 AM. A reception was held immediately following the service in the fellowship hall, with close to 100 people attending both the service and reception. Elder Linwood Bagby led the service. The Rev. Susan Friedl also participated, along with members and friends of the congregation. The Rev. Ryan Landino participated via a web link and sent a letter to be read during the service. An invitation to the Presbytery was posted on the Presbytery of Northeast NJ's Newsletter. Personal letters and contacts were made to the Rev. David Krotchko and his family. James Macklin of the Bowery Mission, one of the longtime mission partners of Calvin Linden also spoke during the service. Emails were also sent to the leaders of the Linden Interfaith Council and the Linden/Roselle Pastor's Council to invite them to the service and to inform them of the closing of the Calvin Linden Presbyterian Church.

Since the final service was held on May 28th, two churches have inquired about leasing the Calvin Linden Building for church services. One of those has been denied and with the other, the AC is awaiting additional information from them. One organization has requested use of the building to expand its services in Linden and a contractor has made very preliminary inquiries about purchasing the Calvin Linden building for use by his congregation.

We, as the Administrative Commission, covet the prayers of the Presbytery as we journey alongside the members of Calvin Linden Presbyterian Church and continue to discern their future.

Elder Linda Macari, Rev. Dan Martian, Elder Skip Winter,
Elder Mary Ellen Tango and Elder John Arrowood

INTERIM REPORT OF THE CALVIN LINDEN ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION TO THE
PRESBYTERY OF NORTHEAST NEW JERSEY
September 16, 2023

The Administrative Commission of the Calvin Linden Presbyterian Church has met 21 times since October of 2022. 18 of those meetings have been over zoom and three of those meetings have been with members of the Congregation.

The Administrative Commission is working alongside, in conjunction with the Congregation to discern their future. Over the years, the Slovak population of the Community, which was the mainstay of the Linden Calvin Presbyterian Church has changed. Membership at Linden Calvin has declined, with long-term members retiring and moving away and in other cases, passing away.

The Administrative Commission is in the process of receiving and reviewing current financial reports, including contributions and expenses, current membership rolls and possible opportunities for the church in the future. Monthly financial reports have been received through the end of July 2023 with checkbook balances and New Covenant Fund balances received through July 2023. Insurance information has been reviewed with Brown and Brown based on the coverage from Philadelphia Insurance. An appraisal of the church property and parking lot was performed on August 28th by Ard Associates of Clark, NJ. The results of the appraisal will be available by the end of September.

A final worship service was held on Pentecost Sunday, May 28th, 2023, at 11 AM. A reception was held immediately following the service in the fellowship hall, with close to 100 people attending both the service and reception. Elder Linwood Bagby led the service. The Rev. Susan Friedl also participated, along with members and friends of the congregation. The Rev. Ryan Landino participated via a web link and sent a letter to be read during the service. An invitation to the Presbytery was posted on the Presbytery of Northeast NJ's Newsletter. Personal letters and contacts were made to the Rev. David Krotchko and his family. James Macklin of the Bowery Mission, one of the longtime mission partners of Calvin Linden also spoke during the service. Emails were also sent to the leaders of the Linden Interfaith Council and the Linden/Roselle Pastor's Council to invite them to the service and to inform them of the closing of the Calvin Linden Presbyterian Church.

Since the final service was held on May 28th, two churches have inquired about leasing the Calvin Linden Building for church services. One of those has been denied and with the other, the AC is awaiting additional information from them. One organization has requested use of the building to expand its services in Linden and a contractor has made very preliminary inquiries about purchasing the Calvin Linden building for use by his congregation.

We, as the Administrative Commission, covet the prayers of the Presbytery as we journey alongside the members of Calvin Linden Presbyterian Church and continue to discern their future.

Elder Linda Macari, Rev. Dan Martian, Elder Skip Winter,
Elder Mary Ellen Tango and Elder John Arrowood

Congregation

July 23, 2023

Rev Oosterbaan welcomed the Congregation and opened the Congregational meeting with prayer.

The Clerk Linda Odgers verified that a quorum was present.

Rev Oosterbaan explained the 3 step process that must be followed in order to sell Roseland Presbytery Church's manse. First the Session votes to sell the manse then the session calls this congregational meeting for the congregation to act on the session's decision to sell the manse of the Roseland Presbyterian Church. Finally, The Presbytery of Northeast Jersey has to approve the sale of the manse.

Pastor Deb closed the Congregational meeting with prayer and opened the Meeting of the Corporation with prayer.

Ruling Elder Glenn Floyd President of the Corporation of the Roseland Presbyterian Church presented his handout considering the sale of the manse which was previously emailed to the congregation. From his handout Elder Glenn gave an overview of the process and costs.

After Elder Glenn Floyd made his presentation, he presented the motion from the session. The session of Roseland Presbyterian Church Requests congregational approval of the sale of the manse on 141 Eagle Rock Ave.

The principal is to be preserves and the income from the principal for the Ministry/Mission of RPC

After discussion Elder Glenn Floyd asked for a vote. The Congregational voted unanimously to sell the manse.

The meeting adjourned following a closing prayer

Respectfully Submitted, Linda Odgers, Clerk of Session and Corporate Secretary

Roseland Presbyterian Church's Manse has not been used as a residence for the Pastor for the last four and half years.

RPC's small congregation does not anticipate that the manse will be used in the future. Both the Session and the Congregational voted unanimously to sell the manse.

Maintaining RPC's manse and surrounding property has taken valuable financial and human resources that could be used for RPC's creative ministries for mission and outreach in the Roseland Community.

At the present time, even with a Temporary Supply Pastor who serves one third time, RPC has begun various Outreach educational ministries in the community..

Last year, RPC offered a Short Course on World Religions. This fall RPC will offer a class on the Labyrinth Walk.

The financial Interest that will come from the Sale of the Manse will be used to continue to provide educational nurture in the Roseland community and support other kinds of Outreach ventures that RPC is committed to explore and undertake.