

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON RIVER  
Presbytery Meeting  
September 19, 2017

The Presbytery of Hudson River met in stated meeting on Tuesday, September 19, 2017, at Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, Scarsdale, New York, 12531, and was convened at 10:40AM with prayer.

Note: "MSA" = moved, seconded, approved.

"MA" = moved, approved, motions coming from committees, needing no second.

TE = Teaching Elder; RE = Ruling Elder, CRE = Commissioned Ruling Elder.

PHR website: [www.hudrivpres.org](http://www.hudrivpres.org) with a link to Hudson Happenings.

Call to Gather the Presbyters for God's Business

Moderator-elect Keith Brokaw

Declaration of a Quorum

Moderator-elect Keith Brokaw

Moderator-elect Keith Brokaw declared a quorum was present.

Voting on the Docket

**Motion:** to vote on the Docket and Consent Agenda. (Attachments I & II). **MSA**

The AA/EEO guidelines were followed during the search process for all of the Teaching Elders and CREs listed in the Committee on Ministry report (Consent Agenda).

Introduction of New Ruling Elder Commissioners

The Moderator welcomed Ruling Elders who were attending as first-time commissioners.

Seating of Corresponding Members

RE Elise Bates Russell (ED at Johnsonburg Camp and Retreat Center)

Minutes Readers

TE Richard Spierling and CRE Thomas Buchanan (New Rochelle).

Welcome from Hitchcock Presbyterian Church

Peter Jones

TE Peter Jones welcomed presbytery to Hitchcock Presbyterian Church.

Worship

Stephany Graham, Drew Paton and Jeniffer Rodriguez led worship. The offering was dedicated to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance and totaled \$1221.00.

Community Conversations

- ***No Guns in God's House***-Margery Rossi leading
  
- ***Ministry Team implementing the HRP Ministry Goal on Vibrant Communities of Faith***-Jonah So leading

- **Ministry Team implementing the HRP Ministry Goal on Strong Empowered Leadership**-Peter Surgenor leading

12:30 PM Blessing for the Meal.

Reconvened at 1:30 PM

Moderator Peter Surgenor assumed the chair.

60 Second Announcements

Peter offered prayer for the announced events.

Council (Attachment III)

Gavin Meek

The attached report has information regarding the Council's work.

**Motion:** to approve the additions to the Manual of Operations: the descriptions of Partnerships and Ministry Teams, and the position description for HRP's General Assembly Commissioners. (Attachments IV, V, &VI) **MA**

**Motion:** to elect TE Jacob Bolton (Huguenot) and TE Stephany Graham (Peekskill) to the Committee on Representation and Nominations (CORN), Class of 2020. **MA**

**Motion:** to nominate RE Heather Benedict to Chair of CORN for 2018. **MA**

**Motion:** to set the size of the General Presbyter Nominating Committee at eight and that it be given the responsibility to examine the candidate for membership and fitness of call in HRP, if the candidate is a Teaching Elder. **MA**

**Motion:** that the following be elected to serve on the General Presbyter Nominating Committee (GPNC): (Attachment VII)

1. RE Lynn Costa (Monroe)
2. RE Carol Dornbush (Pearl River, Nauraushaun)
3. TE Jeffery Farley (Otisville)
4. TE John Miller (Rye)
5. TE Erin Moore (Chester)
6. TE Laurie McNeill, chair (Highland-Marlboro)
7. RE Craig Thompson (Mt. Vernon)
8. RE Eileen Oak (Korean Presbyterian Church of Westchester)

With no nominations from the floor, **MA**

Committee on Representation and Nominations

Heather Benedict

The Committee on Representation and Nominations recommends the following:

**MA** the following resignations:

**RESIGN**

TE David Widmer	Committee on Ministry, 2019
TE Jeffery Farley	Committee on Ministry, 2019, effective 12-31-17
TE David Kingsley	Grants Committee, 2019

**MA** the following elections, with no nominations from the floor,

**ELECT**

RE John Redman	Budget, Finance and Property Committee, 2018
RE Bruce Mather	Committee on Ministry, 2018
RE Rhoda Ingberman	Council, 2020
TE Martha Carlson	Council, 2020

TE Jack Cabaness	Committee on Ministry, 2020
RE Carol Dornbush	Committee on Ministry, 2020
TE Peter Johnson	Committee on Ministry, 2020
TE Erin Moore	Committee on Ministry, 2020
TE Dorothy Muller	Committee on Ministry, 2020
TE Patricia Calahan	Committee on Preparation for Ministry, 2020
TE Jeffery Geary	Committee on Preparation for Ministry, 2020
CRE Harriet Sandmeier	Committee on Preparation for Ministry, 2020
RE Jerry Sutherland	Faith and Order Committee, 2020
RE Robert Trawick	Faith and Order Committee, 2020
TE J. Edward Lewis	Grants Committee, 2020
RE Robert Meade	Grants Committee, 2020
TE Paul Seelman	Personnel Committee, 2020

**MA** the following elections, with no nominations from the floor,

**ELECT** The following leadership for 2018:

RE Keith Brokaw	Moderator of the Presbytery
TE Lori Knight-Whitehouse	Moderator-Elect
CRE Thomas Buchanan	Budget, Finance and Property/Trustees
TE Erin Moore	Co-chair of Commission on Ministry
RE Lisa Niven	Co-chair of Commission on Ministry
TE Elizabeth Smith-Bartlett	Committee on Preparation for Ministry
RE Robert Trawick	Faith and Order
TE Cathryn Surgenor	Grants Committee
TE Paul Seelman	Personnel Committee

**MA** the following elections, with no nominations from the floor,

**ELECT** the following commissioners to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the PC(USA):

RE Keith Brokaw  
 RE Elizabeth Bostwick  
 TE Lori Knight-Whitehouse  
 TE Martin McGeachy  
 Alternate RE: David Burpee  
 Alternate TE: Erin Moore

**MA** the following elections, with no nominations from the floor,

**ELECT** Presbyterian Conference Association Board:

RE Stephanie Gould, 2019  
 RE Lisa Harnisch, 2019

The committee's work for the future includes filling positions for B, F & P/T, COM, Personnel and Alternate Commissioners to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly in June of 2018. Heather encouraged prayerful consideration of possible nominees and recommendations to CORN.

Budget, Finance & Property/Trustees

John Miller

- 1) John reported that a new Treasurer is needed and the job description is attached. (Attachment VIII)
  - 2) A new stewardship brochure is being presented, with the target audience being leaders in local congregations.
  - 3) Presentation of the 2018 budget and per capita recommendations will be made at the December meeting.
- The HRP Green Partnership was discussed.

Moderator-Elect Keith Brokaw assumed the chair.

Stated Clerk's Report (Attachment IX)

Susan De George

- The minutes of the July 25, 2017 stated meeting of the Presbytery were read by TE Jack Cabaness and RE Deb Pfau (All Souls Parish, Port Chester). They recommend approval.
- **Motion:** to accept the resignation of Rev. David Kingsley from the Pine Bush Administrative Commission and to appoint Rev. Bruce Baker in his place **MSA**
- **Motion:** to approve an Administrative Commission for the Stony Point Church as outlined in (Attachment IX). **MSA**
- Statistical Reports open online on December 1, 2017 and close on February 7, 2018. They can be completed early to avoid the end of year rush. They need to be approved by session.

Commission on Ministry

Charles Low

- Paul Seelman was introduced and spoke about his Statement of Faith and something he is excited about in his new position at Huguenot Memorial, Pelham church. Edward Carlson HR, (Western New York) husband of Martha Carlson was also introduced.
- **Motion:** to dismiss Tom Unkenholz to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church effective upon the closure and transfer of the Harrison Presbyterian Church property to the EPC.  
Discussion ensued.  
**Motion:** to postpone this decision to the December presbytery meeting.  
Discussion ensued.  
**Motion:** to call the debate. **MSA**  
**Motion:** to postpone this decision to the December presbytery meeting. **Not approved.**  
**Motion:** to call the debate. **MSA**  
**Motion:** to dismiss Tom Unkenholz to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church effective upon the closure and transfer of the Harrison Presbyterian Church property to the EPC. **Not approved.**
- Prayer was offered by Keith Brokaw.
- The COLA recommendations for 2018 were presented.
- Honorable Retirement of Peter Surgenor. Elise Bates Russell (ED at Johnsonburg) spoke on Peter's behalf. A standing ovation occurred in honor of Peter's excellent service. Keith offered prayer.

Interim General Presbyter's Report

Gavin Meek

Gavin gave thanks and appreciation to everyone involved in the presbytery.

- Gavin spoke of a Transitional Ministry and Education PC(USA) event on November 17-18, 2017, lasting 24 hours, at Holmes. This event will help those churches that have gone from a fulltime pastor to part-time leadership.

New Business

None

Attendance Proclamation

58 Teaching Elders and CREs  
37 Ruling Elder Commissioners  
14 Visitors, officers & staff  
109 TOTAL

**Motion:** to adjourn at 3:46. **MSA**

With no further business before the body, the meeting was adjourned with prayer at 3:46PM. The next stated meeting will convene on Tuesday, December 5, 2017, at the Stony Point Center, 17 Cricketown Road, Stony Point, NY, 10980, at 10:00AM, with registration at 9:30 AM.

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Teaching Elder Susan De George  
Stated Clerk

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Ruling Elder Wendy Spierling  
Journal Clerk