

PRESBYTERY OF HUDSON RIVER  
Presbytery Meeting  
December 2, 2008

Presbytery Convened

The Presbytery of Hudson River met in stated meeting on Tuesday, December 2, 2008 at the Irvington Presbyterian Church, Irvington, NY, and was convened at 3:00 PM with a Song, a Call to Gather, and Prayer. Moderator Chip Low declared that a quorum was present.

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

Voting on the Docket

Chip Low

#20 was pulled from the Consent Agenda. The docket including the consent agenda was approved. MSA (Attachments I & II)

Introduction of New Elders

The Moderator welcomed Elders who were attending as first time commissioners. Several visitors were also introduced.

Seating of Corresponding Members

Bill Carter (Lackawanna), Dan Fullerton (Grace), and Phil Gehman (Salem and Board of Pensions) were approved for seating. MSA

Minutes Readers

Rev. Martha-Louise Harkness and Elder Jane Orcutt (Hortonville) are the minutes readers for this meeting. The minutes for the September 23, 2008 meeting were recommended for approval as written. MSA

Welcome from the Irvington Church

David Harkness welcomed Presbytery to the Irvington Presbyterian Church.

Song

Stated Clerk's Report

Harriet Sandmeier

Harriet reported the following church records that were reviewed: the Korean Presbyterian Church of Westchester, Rye Presbyterian Church, Good Shepherd of Yonkers and Pine Plains. She moved they be approved with exceptions. MSA

A New Elder Orientation Booklet is available for pastors and elders to bring back to their sessions for new elder commissioners to read before attending their first presbytery meeting. (Attachment III)

It was announced that right after Christmas the annual statistical reports will be mailed to each church for the clerks of session to complete. They do not need approval of the congregations; just sessions.

Harriet asked that the clerks of session please send her the names of pastors and elders that

have passed on during 2008 for the Annual Necrology Report to be given at the January presbytery meeting.

The Stated Clerk announced to the moderator and presbyters, "Pursuant to D-10.0202g and D-10.0300, I report that an investigating committee formed under D-10.0200 on December 18, 2007 has concluded its investigation and has determined that no charges will be filed against the accused."

There have been minor revisions to the first draft of bylaws, which was distributed for the September 23, 2008 meeting. The following reflects those revisions. If there are no further revisions presented today these bylaws shall be presented for action.

Proposed additions to the bylaws:

Chapter II: Membership (new b)

b. COMMISSIONED LAY PASTORS who are currently commissioned by the Presbytery to a specific ministry.

c. CHURCHES (etc.) MSA

Harriet moved to accept these revisions to the bylaws. MSA

Vote to approve the bylaws. MSA (Attached to minutes)

Two installations were reported: Rev. Julie Emery and Rev. Paul Min. (Attachment IV)

Actions taken by the 218th General Assembly (2008) concerning the overtures submitted by our presbytery were as follows:

*Item 04-08. On Amending W-4.9000 Regarding the Definition of Marriage—From the Presbytery of Baltimore. **Concurrence:** Presbytery of Hudson River*

GA Action: Disapproved.

To see the action on this item in PC-biz, go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=533>.

*Item 05-06. On Deleting G-6.0106b, and on Providing a New Authoritative Interpretation—From the Presbytery of Hudson River.*

GA Action: Answered by the action taken on Item 05-12.

To see the action on Item 05-06 in PC-biz, go to <http://pc-boz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=517>. To see the action on Item 05-12, go to <http://pc-biz.org/Explorer.aspx?id=1497>. Item 05-12, as amended, is also attached.

2008 Triennial visits. (Attachment V)

GA "Snippet" #1: Listening

Cathy Surgenor

With 5,000 people in the hall and a vote on a contentious issue, there was complete silence for many seconds after the results were posted. People met and talked and listened to each other. It was an amazing experience considering the size of the group attending.

Committee on Ministry

David Harkness & Ken Wonderland

Announcement: There will be a special called meeting of the Presbytery, February 24, 2009, at Stony Point Center, for Bible Study and voting on amendments.

#20 pulled from the Consent Agenda: It was explained that Mr. Chariot is no longer involved with the Unionville church.

Introductions: Gilbert McKenzie (Mount Vernon), Lindsay Borden (Wappingers Falls), Urla Eversley (White Plains), and Angela Maddelone (formerly Skinner) (Palisades).

Stated Clerk, Harriet Sandmeier, reported that Wappingers Falls has called Lindsay Borden, candidate in New York City, to become pastor. Lindsay has been cleared by the NYC CPM to circulate her PIF. NYC Committee on Ministry requires that the receiving presbytery “examine” the called candidate and it will also examine for ordination. PHR COM conducted a 2-hour clearance interview with Lindsay, which constituted the required examination and will so notify NYC of its approval.

The second annual Clergy Retreat will be on March 8, 2009, 3PM, at the Mariandale Retreat Center in Ossining, led by Bob Williamson. (Attachment VI)

Thursday, December 11, 2009, at 1PM, there will be a gathering for interim pastors.

“Conflict Transformation Skills for Churches” A workshop presented by the Hudson River Presbytery Mediation Team will be held February 28, 2009, 9AM -4PM, at the Holmes Camp and Conference Center. (Attachment VII)

Clergy Compensation Committee Summary of 2008 is attached. (Attachment VIII)

#### Board of Pensions

Phil Gehman

The Pension Fund remains conservatively and prudently invested for the long haul with diversification and sufficient liquidity.

The BOP website has been updated wonderfully, [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org).

The Christmas Joy Offering helps BOP with their giving to the assistance programs, which have even more acute needs now. Phil urged the presbytery to continue to show love for those in times of trouble.

#### Greetings from the Co-Directors of Stony Point

Rick Ufford-Chase

Rick spoke of how he and his wife (co-director), Kitty, have been settling into their new positions and the planning conversations that are taking place. He announced there will be a Workshop on energy conservation, January 10, 2008 at Stony Point Center to train churches to Convert Your Church for Energy Conservation. (Attachment IX) Stony Point Center is moving forward in a resurrection way to become more conservation orientated in relation to churches, workshops and spiritual practices.

#### Personnel

Molly Blythe Teichert

A new *Presbytery of Hudson River Personnel Manual*, was adopted by the personnel Committee on May 8, 2008. (Attachment X) It will be e-mailed to churches in January to be used as a model or template. There will be a workshop in springtime to answer questions on personnel issues.

Resurrection after Hurricane Ike, An HRP/PDA mission trip is planned to work in the Houston/Galveston, Texas area. The cost will be \$725.00 per person. (Attachment XI)

Worship & Learning: "Jazz & Generosity"

Bill Carter

The offering was dedicated to the Christmas Joy Offering.

Excellent music and an inspiring sermon concerning stewardship were enjoyed by all.

Blessing for the meal

Break for Dinner-5:45 PM

Reconvene- 6:50 PM

Nominations

Ed Garcia

MSA the following resignations:

Rev. Thomas Unkenholz

Committee on Ministry 2011

Rev. Nadine Hundertmark

Camps and Conferences 2010

Moved and seconded, and with no nominations from floor, elected:

James Wason (Monroe)

Committee on Ministry 2011

Greg Ransom (Cornwall)

Committee on Ministry 2011

Rev. Ned Beckes

Committee on Ministry 2010

John Revert (Chester)

Committee on Ministry 2010

Rev. Paul Min

Self-Development of People 2010

David Burpee (Bedford)

Camps and Conferences 2011

Barbara Horan (White Plains)

Camps and Conferences 2011

Kevin Dierling (Scarsdale)

Camps and Conferences 2011

Calvin Weber (Yorktown)

Budget, Finance & Property 2011

Rev. Winfield Peacock

Transformation Ministries 2011

Moved and seconded, and with no nominations from the floor, elected Ecclesiastical Officers:

Harriet Sandmeier, CLP (Cornwall)

Stated Clerk 2012

Max Sandmeier (Cornwall)

Enrollment Clerk 2012

Rev. Dan Love

Temporary Stated Clerk 2012

Elected Ecclesiastical Officers, including Journal Clerk, Wendy Spierling were introduced by Susan Andrews and honored by Hudson River Presbytery.

General Presbyter (Attachment XII)

Susan Andrews

Susan spoke of how wonder, laughter, skepticism and joy model for us a way to respond to the dependable abundance of our dependable God in the amazing gifts of our amazing lives.

As the stock market rises and falls with alarming irregularity, as retirement and college savings evaporate, as anxiety about jobs and bills escalates, it is tempting for us to pull back, and respond out of fear, rather than out of faith. But the call of discipleship demands the exact opposite response.

The church is a counter-cultural community-and so in these economic times we are called to

respond in a counter-cultural way-stepping up our giving, offering even more compassion and food and love to the poor, worrying not about the bottom line, but about embracing the growing needs in a spiritually and physically hungry world.

Susan said, "Friends, will you re-commit yourselves to Jesus, generosity and justice amidst the turmoil of these days? Please say YES to God's grace and abundance as you offer your mission pledges for 2009."

"No Strings Attached" (Puppet Ministry)

Cheryl Reed & Kate Popoloski

First Presbyterian Church of Washingtonville

A Presbytery Challenge to Change funded project was presented.

Stewardship Team

Budget, Finance and Property

Cathy Talbot & Bob Black

Jay Bishop & Ken Godshall

Announcement: The Christmas Joy offering totaled \$1475.00.

Four Stewardship workshops targeted 45 churches. Two more are scheduled for Freedom Plains and Middletown.

An Alternative Giving Catalog is available for the second Christmas season. (Attachment XIII)  
Jay spoke of the full audit report. (Attachment XIV)

The trustees voted to return to the calendar year, reversing the vote in December 1995. The minutes of the Trustee Meeting, November 19, 2008, and the Covenant Agreement between The Korean Presbyterian Church of Westchester and The Presbyterian Church of New Rochelle are attached. (Attachment XV)

MSA to allow Livingston Manor to utilize \$18,000 from its manse fund for operating expenses.

Hudson River Giving and Per capita for 2008 are attached, (Attachment XVI)

GA "Snippet" #2: "Can We Talk?"

Bruce Mather

Do Justice, Love Kindness, Walk Humbly with God, was the theme for General Assembly.

Bruce said the GA experience as a commissioner was one of the highlights of his life.

Transformation

Nancy Asbury

The 2009 Calendar of Prayer for our Congregations and our Leadership was presented. (Attachment XVII)

A youth trip to Broadstreet Ministries DVD was shown. This experience was funded by Challenge to Change.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Ruth Wainwright & Bill Weisenbach

Edward Pak (Korean Westchester), has been enrolled as an Inquirer.

Judith Lynn Anderson (Denton) was certified ready for ordination.

Vision Ministries

Chip Low reported for Steve Huston

Leonard Sweet will lead a conversation on the postmodern Church, with an emphasis on

being relational, missional, and incarnational, at Scarborough Presbyterian Church on January 24, 2009, 10am-3pm.

#### Congregation & Mission Ministries

Lynda Clements

Dan Fullerton spoke about the food crisis in relation to spiritual disciplines, worship, prayer, fasting: invitation to fast from Friday after supper until Sunday morning when receiving communion. Alternative fasts could be fasting from TV, desserts or something else that could make an impact spiritually.

Ricardo "Shepp" Sheppard talked about prison ministry that HRP is involved with. Many programs are happening with our churches such as health care in prisons, and education opportunities. There are many more issues to be addressed. Start with prayer. The prisoners need our time, visits, Christmas cards. Bad choices don't mean bad people.

#### New Business

Harriet Sandmeier

Two items from Vocations Ministry need to be taken as actions.

Action 1: Vocation Ministry asks the Presbytery of Hudson River to authorize the administration of communion at Commissioned Lay Pastor seminars by a Minister of Word and Sacrament or by a Commissioned Lay Pastor for the year 2009. MSA

Action 2: Vocation Ministry asks the Presbytery of Hudson River to authorize Commissioned Lay Pastors with current commission assignments to perform marriages under New York State statute DRL A 11. In addition, Commissioned Lay Pastors with current commission assignments are given permission to officiate at baptisms, communion, weddings and funerals in accordance with G-14.0562 in the Book of Order.

Amendment moved to delete "funerals" since anyone can conduct same. MSA for amendment.

Bylaws were unanimously approved as amended.

The Stated Clerk expressed relief!

#### Attendance Proclamation

Max Sandmeier

80 ministers

16 visitors

36 elder commissioners

10 officers

TOTAL: 142

#### Adjournment of Stated Meeting 8:30 PM

With no further business before the body, the meeting was adjourned with benediction at 8:30 PM. The next stated meeting will convene on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, at First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, Yorktown, NY at 9:30 AM.

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Harriet Sandmeier  
Stated Clerk

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Wendy Spierling  
Journal Clerk