

PRESBYTERY OF ALBANY **THREE HUNDRED AND ELEVENTH STATED MEETING**

New Covenant Presbyterian Church of Albany, NY

February 4, 2017

The Presbytery of Albany met in stated session on Saturday, February 4, 2017, at the New Covenant Presbyterian Church of Albany, NY. **Ruling Elder Cara Molyneaux, Moderator, called the meeting to order at about 9:30 a.m.** The meeting was held in the Sanctuary of the church and was opened with prayer. **Moderator Molyneaux made announcements, and the Rev. Kathryn Stenta, Pastor of the church, welcomed the Presbytery.**

STATED CLERK'S REPORT

The roll was compiled. Stated Clerk Ruling Elder H. Daniel Rogers announced **a quorum was present** and noted the number of those from whom he had received requests to be excused (21) and those who needed to arrive late (2) or leave early (5). **Charts reporting the meeting attendance of Teaching Elder Members of Presbytery and Ruling Elder Commissioners from churches are included as Appendices A and B to these minutes. Voting delegates present for all or portions of the meeting included 47 Teaching Elders, and 35 Ruling Elders: 29 Ruling Elders representing 29 Congregations, and 6 who are members of the Presbytery Council or chair committees or task forces and represented 1 congregation as well.** An additional 16 persons signed in as visitors. Those attending their first Presbytery Meeting were introduced and welcomed.

TE Katie Rivera Torea (Hudson River Presbytery), TE David Bennett (Northern New York Presbytery), TE Henry Kim (Chicago Presbytery), TE Charles E. (Ted) Wright (National Capital Presbytery), TE Donna Frischknecht-Jackson (New Castle Presbytery), and REs Terry Diggory, Laura Rogers, and Mary Ewart (Past-moderators of Albany Presbytery) were seated as Corresponding Members. RE Robert Trawick was welcomed as a Synod Guest from the Synod's Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) for Albany Presbytery. It was noted that TE Torea is also a member of the SARC.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to approve the docket for the meeting** as amended in the Supplemental Pre-Meeting Packet that had been distributed to include a report from the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. The Moderator noted that any new business must be presented to her in writing before lunch.

By motion duly made and seconded, Presbytery **ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to approve the minutes of the November 16, 2016, stated meeting** as distributed prior to the meeting.

There were several items on the **Consent Agendas from the East Hebron Administrative Commission, the Council, and the Committee on Ministry.** None of the items on the consent agendas was removed, and **the items on the East Hebron AC, the Council, and the COM consent agendas were approved by Presbytery by voice vote with no audible objections.** For ease of reference, relevant business items including consent agenda items are recorded under the East Hebron AC, the Council's, and the COM's section of these minutes.

The following were presented by the Stated Clerk for information:

1. The **next stated presbytery meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, March 29, 2017, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church of Glens Falls.**
2. The schedule of stated meetings for 2017 that was approved by Presbytery on June 4, 2016, is as follows:

Tuesday, June 6 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the Northville United Presbyterian Church.

Saturday, September 30 beginning at 9:30 a.m. at the United Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam

Wednesday, November 15 (afternoon/evening) at a location yet to be determined.

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3. The Presbytery Stated Clerk received a copy of a letter dated January 10, 2017, from Synod Stated Clerk Nancy Talbot to seven leaders of the Presbytery concerning formation of the Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) by the Synod Mission and Ministries Commission to investigate irregularities and disregard for the Book of Order as well as the Standing Rules of the Albany Presbytery as requested in writing by several members of Albany Presbytery. This letter from the Synod Stated Clerk was in response to the December 28, 2016, letter that those leaders had sent to the SARC. Copies of both letters are in Appendix C to these minutes.
4. Thank-You messages have been received in the Presbytery Office since the last stated meeting from the following:
 - a. From TE Viki Brooks for financial support provided by the Presbytery to the Union College Chaplaincy.
 - b. From Tom Rogers on behalf of the Town of Hebron Swim Program for use of the pool at Hebron Camp in the summer of 2016.
 - c. From the Rev. Richard Witt for financial support provided by the Presbytery for Rural & Migrant Ministry.
 - d. From Gary, Mary, and Maria DiSanto-Rose for scholarship support provided by the Presbytery to "Mano a Mano" Guatemala Mission Volunteers from the Mayfield Presbyterian Church.
5. As required by G-3.0305, the rolls of the presbytery membership including registers of all Certified Christian Educators, and ruling elders commissioned to particular pastoral service effective December 31, 2016, are in Appendix D.
6. RE Sal Sceccitano submitted his resignation as Presbytery Treasurer effective November 10, 2016.
7. In accordance with D-5.0206.b, the following is provided for information:

PERMANENT JUDICIAL COMMISSION MEMBERSHIP

Class of 2017: RE Chandlee Gill and TE Michael Burkley

Class of 2019: TE Joseph Shook, RE Carolyn Snyder Lemmon, and RE Barbara Wheeler

Class of 2021: TE John Barclay and RE Kevin Dwyer

Not eligible to serve again until 2017: RE Barbara Cervenka, TE Earl Johnson, and RE Ron Pederson

Not eligible to serve again until 2019: TE David McMillan, TE Pam Woodman

Not eligible to serve again until 2021: RE Terry Nieman

EAST HEBRON ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

The following was presented to Presbytery and was approved by the Presbytery as part of the consent agenda:

That the Presbytery act to formalize the date of the ecclesiastical merger of the East Hebron United Presbyterian Church and the West Hebron United Presbyterian Church to form the Hebron United Presbyterian Church to be February 4, 2017, with the civil consolidation date to be effective pending court approval.

MISCELLANEOUS GROUP REPORTS

SYNOD SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

TE Katie Rivera Torea provided a brief introduction to the purpose of the committee and a review of the work to be accomplished by the committee as had been explained in previous correspondence to the Presbytery. She noted that the previous moderator and secretary for the committee have resigned for health reasons and that she is the new moderator for the committee. She and RE Robert Trawick then responded to questions or concerns from the Presbytery. One presbyter noted that the email address for the committee is not working and appears to have been shut down. TE Torea said she would investigate this matter and make sure the address is available as soon as possible.

RURAL AND MIGRANT MINISTRIES

On behalf of the Stewardship and Mission Interpretation Committee, TE Kathryn Stenta introduced Brian O'Shaughnessy, Advocacy Coordinator for Rural and Migrant Ministries, Inc. (RMM), one of the Mission Partners that the Presbytery supports financially. Brian brought greetings from RMM Executive Director Richard Witt and thanked the Presbytery for its prayers and contributions to support their programs, some of which he reviewed briefly.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

RE Charlotte Hasselbarth invited attendees to visit the PW table at the rear of the Sanctuary where promotional materials were displayed. She provided the "2016 Annual Report of the Steering Committee of Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Albany" and their 2016 Financial Report which are in Appendix E. She highlighted the Spring Gathering of PW in the Presbytery of Albany scheduled for Saturday, April 22, 2017, at the Charlton Freehold Presbyterian Church and the Triennial Gathering of PW in the Synod of the Northeast to be held at the Desmond Hotel in Albany on August 18-19, 2017.

PEACEMAKING TASK FORCE

TE Earl Johnson and TE Paul Randall reviewed several recent instances of harassment of minority youth and the Jewish community in the Albany area. On behalf of the Peacemaking Task Force, Earl moved that Presbytery adopt the following resolution:

Resolution: A Way Forward in Anxious and Angry Times

*This is a time of deep divisions in our nation, within churches and the Presbytery. In light of the rise of racial and ethnic hate crimes since last November, we fear for the safety of fellow church members and others who are Hispanic, African-American, immigrants, gay, lesbian, transgender, disabled, and women. As members of the Albany Presbytery Peacemaking Task Force we encourage our brothers and sisters in faith to face this time. The New Testament calls attention to the kairos moment (Mark 1:15), not just a passing incident that will come and go, but **The Time**, a critical period in which God calls for decisive*

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belief and action.

We believe we face such a time now politically, socially, and ethically. It is not a wait and see time, it is not one of accommodation, it is not one of declaring peace when there is no peace. Now is the time to reclaim our belief that peacemaking is our calling, to stand firmly for justice for all people regardless of race, gender, or sexual preference, and to recommit ourselves to environmental justice in order to preserve God's order of creation for the future of our planet.

We call upon the church to manifest its faith by being a living witness to the Gospel in which Jesus said, "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all of your strength and you shall love your neighbor as yourself."

It is in keeping with this teaching of our Lord when, on November 23, 2016, that the co-moderators of the General Assembly, Anderson and Edmiston, wrote the following:

"To our Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) family in Christ: This is our time to rally for the sake of the Gospel. What we mean is that – whatever your political allegiance – we are asking you to reaffirm your allegiance to the message of Jesus Christ who commanded us to love our neighbors as ourselves and to care for 'the least of these.' Our neighbors include refugees, undocumented workers, and the poor. Our neighbors include LGBTQ friends. Our neighbors include the unemployed and the underemployed. Our neighbors include victims of torture and brutality. This is a holy opportunity to be the people we were created to be."

(See <https://pres-outlook.org/2016/11/co-moderators-urge-presbyterians-agentspeace>.)

The Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) General Assembly wrote a communication on November 16, 2016 titled: "When incivility becomes the norm." In that document, he spoke to the core of the matter. "As Christians, we cannot accept a nation that normalizes violence, exclusion, and racism in our political rhetoric and public policy. We know that God has called us to create a world where a dignified life is available to all, and anything less offers no suitable worship."

(See <https://www.pcusa.org/news/2016/11/16/when-incivility-becomes-norm/>.)

As members of the Peacemaking Task Force of Albany Presbytery we recommend the following actions:

- That Albany Presbytery affirm, by voice vote, the above statements of our national leaders and send them to the churches of our Presbytery to read, study and discuss various ways in which they may respond to the concerns of our day.*
- That Presbytery encourage our churches and members to lift up in their prayers concerns for peace and justice.*
- That the Presbytery make available a time and/or means for churches to share their thoughts and actions, so that we may all learn and benefit from each other and grow and serve together in discipleship and grace.*

By motion duly made and seconded, **Presbytery ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to amend** the Resolution by adding "That the Resolution be recorded in the minutes of this meeting and be publicized on the Presbytery web site. **Presbytery then ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to approve the resolution as amended.**

TE Earl Johnson invited interested members of the Presbytery to attend the Task Force's meetings that are held on the second Monday of the month in Amsterdam and then offered a prayer for the work of the Task Force.

TRANSITIONAL PRESBYTER'S REPORT

Transitional Presbyter Shannan Vance-Ocampo summarized the transitional goals that have guided her work to date. Her report was centered on adaptive change for the Presbytery in transition and was focused on the areas that mark healthy adaptive organizational change. She highlighted the future needs for Entrepreneurial Leadership, Community Organizing, Cross-cultural Proficiency, Compassionate Care, and Technology for Evangelism.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

The following items were presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. COM met on December 7, 2016, January 4, 2017, and February 1, 2017. The committee's next meeting is scheduled for March 8, 2017, either as COM or as the Committee on Teaching Elders and Congregations if the new Presbytery Structure is adopted. COM acted to accept with regret the resignations of RE Meg Knight (Ballston Spa) and TE Kathryn Beilke from the committee.
2. COM received an update report from the Mentor Training Task Force on December 7 that included a proposal to continue to retain Keli Rugenstein, PhD, now of Eastern Door Counseling Center, as consultant for leadership of its Mentor Program. It was noted that Samaritan Counseling Center, with which Keli Rugenstein was formally associated, has offered a proposal to continue to provide mentor training. It was noted that accepting the Samaritan proposal would be returning to "step one" versus continuing with what has been done with Keli, and switching leaders will have an impact on participants who have developed a common language with Keli. By motion duly made and seconded, COM acted to continue with Keli Rugenstein as the leader of the Mentor Program.
3. COM received a report on a meeting that committee leaders had with TE Nadeem Sadiq. It noted that the Pakistani American Fellowship (PAF) is not a self-supporting congregation. They don't raise enough money to pay rent (\$100 per month) and insurance (about \$600 per year). It was the sense of the committee that, if the PAF should be a mission of Presbytery and receive funds to pay rent and insurance and other expenses including some compensation for Nadeem, the matter should be referred to and discussed by SMI or the new Committee on Church Mission, and any relevant proposal to Presbytery should come from that group, not from COM. It was suggested that perhaps there are particular churches within the Presbytery that would be willing to support PAF as a mission.
4. COM held a retreat on January 8, 2017, at the Ballston Spa Church from 3:00 – 7:00 p.m. to talk about what is required to serve as a COM liaison to a church and other "big picture" issues. Current church liaisons who are not serving on COM were also invited and did attend.
5. COM approved a contract for Darren Barkman to preach three times per month at the Bay Road Presbyterian Church through April 2017.
6. TEs Ken Applegate and Gusti Linnea Newquist are serving as a care team for TE Kathryn Beilke at the Hudson Church as it deals with the closure of its building due to roof structure problems. Kathryn has requested a team and a moderator to support her for issues around the building, and TE Donna Elia, as an incoming member of the Board of Trustees, will serve as the Trustee Liaison and to serve as moderator of building-related session and congregational meetings when requested by Kathryn.

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7. Given TE David Moore's reported physical concerns that limit his ability to serve, COM acted to assign TE Bill Levering to be his pastor and bring him communion. Shannan Vance-Ocampo will notify David of this action and will ask him to be in contact with COM when his health is better.
8. **PneuMatrix Update:** Six Adaptive Change Apprentices (ACAs) and five churches have decided to engage in this process. All participants have had their first meeting and some have had a second meeting. The ACAs and churches are as follows: TE Kate Kotfila and RE Rose Ann Jackling with Trinity/Scotia; RE Darren Gundrum with Cambridge; TE Lynn Brown with New Scotland; TE Gusti Newquist with New Covenant; and TE Rachel Mastin with Delmar. Contrary to some previous reports, the West Charlton church has decided not to participate after all.
9. COM acted to grant 1-year deferments from attending Boundary Awareness Training in 2016 to TEs Steve Cronn and Rob Rose at their valid requests and to TEs Bob Criswell and Rachel Mastin who were unable to attend the November 10 training as planned due to last-minute, valid conflicts. They will need to attend training in 2017.
10. COM is using Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger as a study guide for discussions at its meetings. COM has purchased copies of this resource for all of the churches and most of the minister members of the Presbytery which were distributed where possible at this Presbytery meeting. Copies will be mailed to those not present at the meeting.
11. COM has approved a renewed contract between the Jewett Presbyterian Church session and Bob Nash, a student at the Huntersville Christian Training Center, a Christian Missionary Alliance institution. TE Holly Cameron will continue to serve as moderator of the Jewett Church.
12. COM reminds all church leaders of the following policy:

The Presbytery has established \$140 plus mileage reimbursement at the current IRS rate (0.535 cents per mile as of January 1, 2017) as the minimum honorarium for temporary pulpit supply preachers and \$70 plus mileage and expense reimbursement as the minimum honorarium for visiting moderators. **It is expected that payment will be made at the time of service.** Mileage can be determined at websites such as Mapquest.com.

COM will likely recommend increasing these honoraria for 2018, tentatively to \$150 for pulpit supply and \$75 for visiting moderators, so church sessions should anticipate these increases when preparing their 2018 budgets.
13. COM acted to approve a grant of \$3,000 from its Pastoral Care and Ministerial Assistance budget to TE Tim Coombs for his participation in the Auburn Seminary Coach Training Program.

The following were presented to Presbytery and were approved by Presbytery as part of the consent agenda:

1. Having reviewed and found the terms acceptable, COM recommended that Presbytery ACT to approve the Terms of Call contract for the following Pastor in a temporary relationship for 2017: TE Donna Elia at Hoosick Falls.
2. Having reviewed and found the terms acceptable, COM recommended that Presbytery ACT retroactively to approve the Terms of Call for 2016 for the following Installed Pastors: TE Bert Mayne at Carlisle and TE Gusti Newquist at First United, Troy. Minor changes or corrections will be required in each.

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3. That Presbytery ACT to grant a waiver to the Bay Road congregation to allow RE Pat Hart to serve another term on the session for up to 3 years in accordance with G-2.0404. Rationale: Pat is completing her second 3-year term on Session, and the church Nominating Committee has been unable to find a sufficient number of Elders to serve on Session due to the small number of active members in the congregation. Pat is willing to continue to serve if Presbytery does grant this waiver.
4. That Presbytery ACT to formally endorse TE Tim Coombs' "Parallels" New Worshipping Community.
5. In accordance with W-2.4012.c, that Presbytery ACT to authorize the following ruling elders at the Jewett Presbyterian Church to administer the Lord's Supper when a teaching elder is not present: REs Jessica Creech, Clarence Soule, Bruce Maben, and Charlotte Jaeger. These four ruling elders were trained to administer communion at the January 15, 2017, Session meeting by Moderator Holly Cameron.
6. Having reviewed and found the terms acceptable, COM recommended that Presbytery ACT to approve the Terms of Call contract for the following Pastors in a temporary relationship for 2017: TE Victoria Brooks (Campus Protestant Ministry Board at Union College.) and TE Catherine Kotfila (Cambridge);
7. Having reviewed and found the terms acceptable, COM recommends that Presbytery ACT to approve the Terms of Call for 2017 for the following Installed Pastors: TEs Gusti Linnea Newquist (First United, Troy); Rebecca Lawson Putman (Northville); Brandan Eddy (Schoharie); Kathi Jones (Valatie); Holly Cameron (New Scotland); and Linda Martin (Broadalbin).
8. That Presbytery ACT to grant a waiver to the First Presbyterian Church of West Galway congregation to allow REs Cindy Colby, Carol Freer, Patricia Way, and Robert Eaton to serve another term on the session for up to 3 years in accordance with G-2.0404. Rationale: The church Nominating Committee has been unable to find a sufficient number of Elders to serve on Session due to the small number of active members in the congregation.
9. That Presbytery ACT retroactively to approve the following extension of the temporary pastoral relationship agreement (G-2.0504.b.) between TE Beth Illingworth (a member of Albany Presbytery in good standing) and the session of St. Peter's Presbyterian Church of Spencertown to serve as Temporary Supply and moderator from January 1, 2017, through April 30, 2017, in accordance with the following terms for the 17-week period of the agreement: Full-time; Cash Salary - \$14,527; Housing Allowance - \$4,358; total effective salary - \$18,885; Board of Pensions Medical Dues - Waived; Board of Pensions Death and Pensions Benefits Plan: \$2,266; Social Security Offset - \$1,445; Professional Expense Reimbursement - \$255; Continuing Education Reimbursement - \$595; Estimated Travel Reimbursable Expenses - \$800. Vacation: 10 days including 2 Sundays.
10. That TE Tim Coombs be appointed to serve as moderator of the State Street Presbyterian Church in Schenectady effective February 4, 2017.
11. That TE Ken Applegate be appointed to serve as moderator of the Stephentown Federated Church effective February 4, 2017.

The following were presented to Presbytery for discussion and action when needed:

1. At its meeting on February 1, 2017, COM reviewed and acted to endorse the appended “**Albany Presbytery COM Listening/Resolution Team Report - United Church of Cohoes - January 2017**” including a Proposed Resolution with Rationale (see Appendix F) and presented it to the Presbytery for a first reading. TE David Bennett explained the scheduling conflict that made it impossible for leaders from the United Church of Cohoes to attend this meeting and affirm their acceptance of the Proposed Resolution. He noted that confidential opportunities were provided for any members of the church to speak with the team. This Report will be presented for a second reading and action, if the way be clear, on March 29, 2017.
2. COM Member TE Jennifer Wegter-McNelly introduced RE Victor Spairana, chair of the Pastor Nominating Committee from the Brunswick Presbyterian Church. Victor attested to the fact that the session of the church called a congregational meeting for Sunday, January 22, 2017, for the PNC to report on their work. At that duly-called meeting which was moderated by TE Elizabeth Shen O’Connor and attended by TE Shannan Vance-Ocampo and RE Laura Rogers representing Albany Presbytery, the PNC nominated and the congregation acted to call TE Henry Hyun Kim to serve as their Senior Pastor. TE Kim accepted the call subject to approval by the Presbytery.

TE Wegter-McNelly then introduced TE Henry Kim, a member of the Presbytery of Chicago, and reported that following a Clearance Interview by COM, COM recommends that Presbytery examine TE Kim for transfer of membership to Albany Presbytery so that he may accept the call of the Brunswick Presbyterian Church to serve as its installed Senior Pastor and moderator effective March 1, 2017. The annual terms of the call are as follows: 40 hours per week; cash salary - \$39,000; Housing Allowance - \$30,000; Other Allowances - \$4,000; Total Effective Salary - \$73,000. Board of Pensions Medical Dues - \$17,885; Board of Pensions Benefits Plan Dues - \$8,760; SECA (Social Security) Offset - \$5,584.50; Professional Expense Reimbursement - \$1,000; Continuing Education Reimbursement - \$3,000; Total - \$109,229.50. Estimated Travel Reimbursable Expenses - \$1,500; Vacation: 30 days including 4 Sundays; Continuing Education/Study Leave: 2 weeks.

It was noted that COM recognized that appropriate EEO/Affirmative Action procedures were followed by the PNC at the Brunswick Church.

Prior to the meeting, the “appendix” of the presbytery policy on examinations, along with the statement of faith and biographical information for the Rev. Kim had been provided to presbyters. The Committee on Ministry had strongly encouraged all presbyters to read his statement of faith carefully as the statement was not read aloud during the examination. TE Wegter-McNelly posed the following question to TE Kim on behalf of COM:

What have been the highlights of your ministry to date, and what are the particular challenges and joys you anticipate in your ministry in Albany Presbytery?

TE Kim responded to the question prepared by COM. The floor was opened for questions and answers following the new examination process. **A motion to arrest the examination for transfer of TE Kim was made, seconded and APPROVED by a voice vote with no audible objections.**

TE Kim was excused. On behalf of the PNC, many of whom were present, RE Spairana thanked leaders of the Presbytery and COM for their assistance during the transition in senior pastoral leadership at the Brunswick church including during the PNC process.

After some discussion, by motion made and seconded, the examination for transfer of membership was SUSTAINED and the terms of call for TE Kim were APPROVED by voice

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vote with no audible objections. This vote also authorized COM or its successor Committee on Teaching Elders and Congregations to approve the Administrative Commission recruited by TE Kim to install him at the Brunswick Presbyterian Church.

TE Kim was called back to the sanctuary and received congratulations from the Presbytery. TE Wegter-McNelly offered a prayer for TE Kim and his ministry at the Brunswick church.

3. On behalf of COM, co-chair RE Sam Jackling introduced and recommended that Presbytery examine and ACT to receive TE Charles E. (Ted) Wright, HR, who has requested that his membership be transferred to Albany Presbytery from National Capital Presbytery and that he be enrolled as an Honorably Retired member of the Presbytery.

TE Wright's biography and statement of faith had been provided to presbyters before the meeting. RE Jackling posed the following question to TE Wright on behalf of COM:

What have been the highlights of your ministry to date, and what are the particular challenges and joys you anticipate in your ministry in Albany Presbytery?

TE Wright responded to the question prepared by COM. The floor was opened for questions and answers following the new examination process. **A motion to arrest the examination for transfer of TE Wright was made, seconded and APPROVED by voice vote with no audible objections.**

TE Wright was excused.

After some discussion, by motion made and seconded, the examination for transfer of membership was SUSTAINED by voice vote with no audible objections. Upon receipt, he will be designated as an Honorably Retired member.

TE Wright was called back to the sanctuary and received congratulations from the Presbytery.

4. On behalf of COM, TE Lois Wolff introduced and recommended that Presbytery examine and ACT to receive TE Donna Frischknecht-Jackson, who has requested that her membership be transferred to Albany Presbytery from New Castle Presbytery and that she be enrolled as an At-Large member.

TE Frisknecht-Jackson's biography and statement of faith had been provided to presbyters before the meeting. TE Wolff noted that TE Frischknecht-Jackson had been a member of Albany Presbytery and had served the United Presbyterian Church of Cambridge before leaving to serve churches in two other presbyteries. TE Wolff posed the following question to TE Frischknecht-Jackson:

What did you learn about yourself and your call to ministry while serving the other churches after leaving the Cambridge Church?

TE Frischknecht-Jackson responded to the question from TE Wolff. The floor was opened for questions and answers following the new examination process. **A motion to arrest the examination for transfer of TE Frischknecht-Jackson was made, seconded and APPROVED by a voice vote with no audible objections.**

TE Frischknecht-Jackson was excused.

After some discussion, by motion made and seconded, the examination for transfer of membership was SUSTAINED by voice vote with no audible objections. Upon receipt, she will be designated as an At-Large member.

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TE Frischknecht-Jackson was called back to the sanctuary and received congratulations from the Presbytery.

5. COM recommended and **Presbytery ACTED retroactively by voice vote with no audible objections to change the status of the Rev. Annie Reilly (RCA)** as a Temporary Member of Albany Presbytery from serving as Temporary Supply Pastor at the State Street Presbyterian Church in Schenectady, which ended on December 31, 2016, to serving as Associate Pastor at the Presbyterian New England Congregational Church in Saratoga, beginning on January 1, 2017. It was noted that the Saratoga Church used the UCC process to expedite the search for an Associate Pastor to replace Emily Otto who resigned in August 2016. Senior Pastor Kate Forer (UCC) consulted with Transitional Presbyter Shannan Vance-Ocampo and COM Co-Chair David Bennett who accepted that decision at the time. Therefore, the congregation was not required to elect an Associate Pastor Nominating Committee, and COM was not asked to do clearance interviews of candidates. RE Elizabeth Meehan attested to the fact that the congregation did meet on December 11, 2016, and acted to extend the call to the Rev. Annie Reilly (RCA).
6. COM presented draft **Policies and Procedures of Albany Presbytery Committee on Ministry** for a second reading and recommended that the document be adopted. It was noted that no revisions were made to the document following the first reading in November. **Presbytery ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to adopt the document. A copy of this document is on file in the Presbytery Office and it will be posted to the Presbytery web site.**

TE Susan Strang offered a prayer for the ministries of TEs Wright, Frischknecht-Jackson, and Reilly.

ORDER OF THE DAY - SMALL GROUP DISCUSSIONS

At 11:30 a.m., TE Lynn Brown, a member of the Personnel Committee and acting on behalf of Council, reviewed the “**Report of the Staffing Transition Team: Part III – Recommendations**” which had been provided to presbyters as part of the Pre-Meeting Information. She noted that this was being presented for information, but not for a first reading. Presbyters were then given the opportunity to gather in four small groups for discussions and to provide feedback and questions. The moderator assigned leaders and note takers for the four groups. At the end of the discussion time, the Moderator collected the written notes from each group and agreed to compile them into one document to provide information for the Staffing Transition Team to consider as it works to provide recommendations for a first reading at the March 29, 2017, stated meeting. This report is not included as an appendix to these minutes because it may be revised, but the report with recommendations will be included in the minutes of the stated meeting at which it is presented for a first reading.

ORDER OF THE DAY - LUNCH

The Presbytery moved to lunch at 12:15 p.m. and reconvened in the Sanctuary at about 1:00 p.m.

SPEAK OUT

Commissioners were given the opportunity to make announcements or express views in 1 minute or less. TE Kathy Gorman-Coombs brought greetings from the Mam Presbytery in Guatemala.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The following were presented for information:

1. The Board met on December 7, 2016, January 6, 2017, and February 1, 2017, at the Hamilton Union PC in Guilderland. Arthur Fullerton submitted his resignation from the Board in writing effective on December 7, 2016, in order to devote his full attention to his Vice Moderator duties. The Board acted to receive and approve his resignation with regret, but with thanks for his service.
2. The Board ACTED on January 6, 2017, to elect Carl Hasselbarth to serve as Board president and Bill Levering to serve as Board vice president for 2017. Bill Levering will continue to serve as Board treasurer, and Donald Drew will continue to serve as Board assistant treasurer.
3. The Board received and reviewed a "Request for a Grant for Emergency Repairs to our Historic Church Building" from the First Presbyterian Church of Hudson on December 7, 2016. TE Kathryn Beilke, pastor of the church, joined the meeting by telephone for the discussion about this request for funds to make emergency repairs to the roof structure. After much discussion and consideration of concerns (possible presence of and need to abate asbestos-containing insulation material and time constraints to reinforce the roof structure before it may be subjected to heavy snow loads) and alternatives (donate building to some other group who might qualify for government grants for facility development and restoration or seek a PILP loan), by motion duly made and seconded the Board voted 3 in favor and 2 against to extend to the church a \$50,000, no-interest, no-firm-repayment loan from the Board's Grants and Loan Fund with the understanding that the church will repay the loan in full when it sells the property at 369 Warren Street in Hudson. The loan payment was made on January 13, 2017.
4. Sale of the First Watervliet church property to the Fiqh Mosque for \$80,000 has been approved by the NYS Supreme Court. A closing on this sale is pending.
5. The Board ACTED to continue to provide property and liability insurance on the Oakwood Community Center Building (formerly the Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church Building) that is still owned by the Presbytery until November 2017 using the funds that were transferred to the Presbytery upon dissolution of the Oakwood Avenue Presbyterian Church congregation to pay the insurance premiums.
6. Bill Levering reported on his meeting with the Personnel Committee and the need for the Presbytery to have a person or group of persons under one organization who can provide bookkeeping, property management, Presbytery office management, human resource services and expertise, etc. He indicated that the Personnel Committee was positively disposed to seek such a person or group, but not for another year. They indicated that the Board should go ahead and hire a property manager for 2017. And in 2018, the trustees will be asked to help fund half of the total for the person or group going forward.
7. The Building Assessment Team (BAT) process is proceeding and the Board is working to create a joint Trustees/COM group to look at the reports received and recommend how to proceed, especially in cases where there are safety problems that may require intervention in order to get the churches to deal with them. Trustee Kate Kotfila is overseeing this process and should be contacted with questions or concerns.
8. A closing on the sale of the last portion of the Hebron Camp and Conference Center is anticipated in early 2017.

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9. Water supply to the Whitehall Church has been shut off, but the town had to rip up the sidewalk to find the shut-off valve. The congregation is still meeting at a Community Center and care of the congregation is a COM issue. The Board indicated that it is OK to approach Peter McKee about selling the property.
10. The 2017 Presbytery budget included income of \$5,000 from the sale of Hebron property to support camperships in 2017. Although closing on the sale of the final portion Hebron property has not been scheduled yet, it is anticipated to be held soon. Therefore, in anticipation of receiving funds from this sale, the Board ACTED to allow promotion of available camperships in future E-News and to proceed with receiving applications.
11. The Oakwood Community Center (OCC) Board is pursuing a Sacred Sites grant to repair the stained-glass windows in the building and asked for verification of how much remains in the Oakwood Fund to offer as matching funds. There was \$9,297.11 remaining in the fund on 12/31/2016. Payment of the remaining premiums on the insurance will require about \$1,953 in 2017. This will leave a balance of \$7,344 in the fund. The Board acted to tell the OCC Board that it will be OK to leverage the remaining funds totaling \$7,344 toward this grant, with the caveat that these are all the funds that are available from the Presbytery to support the OCC building, no matter what. If there are any remaining funds in the Oakwood Account when the Trustees transfer the building to the OCC, they will be allocated to the OCC.
12. Board President Carl Hasselbarth addressed the Presbytery and shared some ongoing concerns that the Board has about meeting and funding the property management needs that are relegated to the Board when a church congregation is dissolved and the Board of Trustees must assume responsibility for the abandoned property on behalf of the Presbytery.

The following were presented to Presbytery for discussion and action when needed:

1. The Board of Trustees recommended and **Presbytery ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to approve the sale of the church building at 16 West Fulton Street in Gloversville** to the Fulmont Community Church from Johnstown, NY, for \$25,000, subject to approval by the NYS Supreme Court. A deposit of \$1,000 has been paid. The contract includes a 'rent' payment of \$2,500 per month effective February 1, 2017, to be applied to the \$9,000 down payment. The remainder of the \$9,000 down payment will be due at the closing if the monthly 'rent' payments haven't totaled \$9,000 by then. The Board of Trustees will then hold a mortgage for \$15,000 for a term of 36 months at 5%. The buyer wants to occupy the building on February 1, 2017, and is afraid of a long closing period. The necessary formal notice of termination of lease to Buckley Road Baptist Church, the current tenant, has been sent. The purchaser has been asked to make good faith efforts to consider the needs of the current tenant since they may not be able to move out before the purchaser wants to occupy the building.
2. The Board of Trustees recommended and **Presbytery ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to approve the sale of the house and property at 5 Park Place in Cambridge** by the Cambridge congregation to Christopher Cantalucci for \$64,000 subject to approval by the NYS Courts. The property has been appraised by an independent appraiser at about \$70,000.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

On behalf of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry, TE Elizabeth Shen O'Connor presented the draft **Presbytery of Albany Committee on Preparation for Ministry Manual of Operations** for a second reading and CPM's recommendation that it be adopted. She noted the changes related to psychological assessments that had been made since the document was presented for a first reading in November after consultation with the Office of the General Assembly. **Presbytery ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to adopt the document. A copy of this document is on file in the Presbytery Office and it will be posted to the Presbytery web site.**

COUNCIL REPORT

The following were presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. Council met at the Malta PC on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, and by conference call on Tuesday, January 10, 2017.
2. On December 13, 2016, Council endorsed the following grant requests for funding from the Synod of the Northeast:
 - “ADK Church WOW” New Worshipping Community
 - “Parallels” New Worshipping Community
 - Wizard’s Wardrobe supported by First Presbyterian Church of Albany.
3. By electronic voting, Council acted on January 5, 2017, to endorse a Hudson Church Without Walls Innovation Grant Application from the Hudson Church to the Synod of the Northeast.
4. Council Moderator Fullerton reported on December 13 that he and the Stated Clerk are drafting a proposed policy restricting service by an individual to no more than one Presbytery committee or board at a time -- (One Hat Rule). It was noted that this would be included in the revised Standing Rules to be implemented when a new Presbytery committee structure is approved. It was also noted that this rule would exclude short-term appointments to ad hoc committees.
5. Council Moderator Fullerton reported on December 13 that he and the Stated Clerk are drafting a proposed policy encouraging committee leadership to rotate with chairs serving only for one year or encouraging co-chairs for committees -- (Many Heads Rule). It was noted that this would also be included in the revised Standing Rules to be implemented when a new Presbytery committee structure is approved.
6. On behalf of the officers, Council Moderator Fullerton reported on December 13 a need to develop a policy to limit access to certain documents on the Website, e.g. Presbytery meeting materials (pre-meeting information, meeting minutes, etc.) – (Balancing Confidentiality with Openness). This will be a topic for consideration at future Council or Coordination Committee meetings. Presbytery Moderator Cara Molyneaux will appoint a working group/task force to study alternatives and develop a proposed system to protect documents taking into account cost factors.
7. Council Moderator Fullerton reported on December 13 a need to develop a process for review of evaluations of past Presbytery meetings and of a process for requesting, receiving, and reviewing future meeting evaluations – (Iterative Learning).

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8. On December 13, Dan Rogers and Tim Coombs gave brief reports on their meetings with the Synod Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) that were held on December 3. They noted that Shannan Vance-Ocampo also met with the SARC on December 3, but was unable to report because she was excused from the December 13 Council meeting. They did not share any confidential information from those meetings. They limited their comments to informing Council of the requests they had received from the SARC to attend future Council and Presbytery meetings.
9. Holly Cameron reported to Council on December 13 on the conversations COM has had about the Pakistani American Fellowship (PAF) and its sense that after many years of support, it is out of ideas for providing future support other than to invite churches to take PAF on as a mission. Jerry McKinney noted that we have a formal tie with the PAF. It was suggested that member churches might offer space at no cost for the PAF to use that is equivalent to the space it is currently renting in an Episcopal Church. It was noted that TE Nadeem Sadiq is an at-large member of Presbytery and his ministry to the PAF is validated. Council ACTED to support COM's decision.
10. Holly Cameron reported that COM is purchasing copies of Canoeing the Mountains by Tod Bolsinger for distribution to all churches and most minister members of the Presbytery.
11. Arthur Fullerton reported that the Board of Trustees has approved a \$50,000, no-interest, no-scheduled repayment loan to the Hudson Church for emergency roof repairs.
12. Katy Stenta reported that SMI has received a suggestion from Kate Kotfila that Presbytery consider hosting a "Bridges out of Poverty" educational event. SMI also received a request from Chris Yarnal, Director of Campus Ministry at Alfred University, and will attempt to help him identify mission projects for a group of students to work on in Albany Presbytery on a weekend in February 2017.
13. On December 13, Council instructed the Committee on Nominations to assume the proposed new committee structure will become the structure for the Presbytery in 2017 and to proceed to nominate persons to serve on those committees with the understanding that this new structure will be implemented as soon as possible. Those who are currently on committees and whose terms are nearly over may be invited to take a year off. The Nominating Committee may come to the next COM meeting to talk with folks about which committee they might like to serve on in the new structure.
14. Proposed Amendments to the PC(USA) Constitution: Council ACTED to empower the Presbytery Moderator and Stated Clerk to appoint a working group/task force to be charged with considering the various amendments and bringing recommendations to the February stated meeting for review with action to be docketed for the March stated meeting. Alternately some of the amendments may be assigned to existing committees for review and making recommendations.
15. The officers with input from TE Jerry McKinney will prepare a draft of changes to the Manual of Administrative Operations including the Standing Rules based on the new proposed Structure Plan to present to Presbytery for a first reading and questions and comments at the February 4 meeting if the way be clear.

The following were presented to the Presbytery and were approved by Presbytery under the Consent Agenda

1. That Presbytery act retroactively to carry over the unexpended amounts in the following Dedicated Account from 2016 to 2017: Line 1-9190 – PneuMatrix Group. Rationale: These are funds that have

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been contributed by outside organizations and need to be preserved and made available to support the PneuMatrix process in 2017.

2. That Presbytery act to approve The First Presbyterian Church of Hudson Falls to serve as fiduciary agent for Adirondack Church WOW. The Presbytery's contract with TE Lucy Harris ends on January 31, 2017. The Presbytery will continue to pay her salary through January 2017 using unexpended funds from GA and Synod grants. The 2017 Presbytery budget does not include any funding for Adirondack Church WOW, and all unexpended funds from grants to Adirondack Church WOW will be transferred to the Hudson Falls church after January 31, 2017.

The following were presented to the Presbytery for discussion and action where appropriate:

1. On behalf of Council, Council Moderator Arthur Fullerton nominated TE John Barclay for election to serve on the Committee on Nominations, Class of 2017. The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none and **Presbytery ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to elect TE Barclay to serve on the Committee on Nominations, Class of 2017.**
2. Council presented the appended **Proposed Congregational Renewal/Pastoral Leadership Plan** (also known as the Ministry Plan) as revised from the first reading for a second reading and recommended that it be approved. See Appendix G. The revised document had been provided to presbyters as part of the Pre-Meeting Information. TE Tim Coombs, Associate for Congregations, reviewed the revisions that had been made including the addition of an opt-out option. He responded to questions. A motion was duly made and seconded to amend the document, but that motion was lost. **Presbytery then ACTED by a voice vote with no audible objections to adopt the Plan as revised.**
3. Council presented the appended **Proposed Presbytery Structure Plan** as revised for a second reading and recommended that it be adopted. See Appendix H. The revised document had been provided to presbyters as part of the Pre-Meeting Information. Revisions that had been made to the Structure Plan since it was presented for a first reading in November were reviewed. After much debate and sharing of concerns about accountability and a prayer for wisdom offered by TE Lois Wolff, **Presbytery ACTED by a show of hands vote of 47 in favor and 9 opposed to adopt the Proposed Presbytery Structure Plan to become effective at the end of this meeting.**

For the record, this vote to adopt included the Presbytery assigning limited commission powers to certain committees to act on behalf of the Presbytery in accordance with G-3.0109 as shown in Appendix H and as summarized below:

The Board of Trustees is commissioned to:

--consider and act upon requests from congregations for permission to take the actions regarding real property as described in G-4.0206

The Committee on Teaching Elders and Congregations is commissioned to:

--appoint administrative commissions of Presbytery for the purpose of ordaining and installing Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders to particular pastoral service

--approve terms of call and contracts for Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders

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--examine and receive Teaching Elders by transfer from other presbyteries for the purpose of accepting valid calls to ministry and membership in the Presbytery; and for membership in the Presbytery as at-large and honorably retired.

--approve and review annually the work of all teaching elders engaged in validated ministries outside the congregation

The Committee on Leadership Development is commissioned to:

--enroll inquirers in covenant relationship with the Presbytery

--transfer inquirers and candidates to other presbyteries

--receive inquirers and candidates by transfer from other presbyteries

--perform annual consultations with inquirers and candidates

--certify candidates ready to receive a call and give candidates permission circulate their Personal Information Form

--remove an individual from inquirer status

COMMITTEE ON NOMINATIONS REPORT

Acting on behalf of the **Committee on Nominations**, chair TE Jerry McKinney presented the following nominations for election to the treasurer positions noted:

Treasurer: TE Bill Levering for a 3-year term

Assistant Treasurer: RE Margaret Drew (FUPC, Troy) for a 1-year term

The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none. **Presbytery ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to elect the persons nominated.**

TE McKinney noted that the names listed in regular type in the following committees had been previously elected, and acting on behalf of the Committee, he presented and nominated the names shown in **underlined bold** below:

MINISTRY OF GOVERNANCE

COORDINATION COMMITTEE (as a result of the Presbytery's action to adopt the New Structure Plan earlier in the meeting, the following will be members of the Coordination Committee)

Moderator – RE Cara Molyneaux

Vice Moderator – RE Arthur Fullerton

Stated Clerk – RE H. Daniel Rogers

Executive/Professional Staff – TE Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Committee chairs or representatives. To Be Determined.

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COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS - 5 members

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Terry Diggory 4/16 RE | Cheryl Colt 11/13 TE | Jerry McKinney 11/16 TE |
| John Barclay 4/11 TE | Larry Greenwold 3/13 TE | |
| | Kevin Dwyer 4/12 RE | |

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE - 5 members

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|----------------------|----------------------|---|
| TBD | TBD | <u>Sue Laz</u> – RE (Third PC, Troy) |
| | TBD | <u>Van Dykeman</u> (PNECC Church) |
| | | |

COMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL - 5 members

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Lynn Brown TE | Viki Brooks 4/16 TE | <u>Floyd Barwig</u> 2/13 RE |
| Chandlee Gill RE | Paul Randall TE | <u>John Barclay</u> 11/13 TE |

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - 7 members – TEs and REs only.

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| | Kate Kotfila 1/16 TE | Donna Elia TE 11/16 |
| Carl Hasselbarth 11/14 RE (Hamilton Union) | Donald Drew 1/16 RE (First United, Troy) | Bill Levering 11/13 TE |
| <u>Miriam Lawrence Leupold</u> – TE | | TBD |

MINISTRY OF ASSISTANCE, SUPPORT, AND DEVELOPMENT

COMMITTEE ON TEACHING ELDERS AND CONGREGATIONS - 9 Members (minimum); 15 (maximum) (At least a total of 5 teaching elders and ruling elders), 3 year terms, maximum of 6 years.

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|--|--|--|
| <u>Ken Applegate</u> 4/16 TE | <u>Rebecca Putman</u> 6/16 TE | <u>Debbi Waggoner</u> RE (Hamilton Union) |
| <u>Judy Hartley</u> 11/14 RE (Westminster) | <u>Kathi Jones</u> 1/13 TE | TBD |
| <u>Sam Jackling</u> 6/12 [*11/16] RE (Broadalbin) | <u>Holly Cameron</u> 11/14 TE [*11/16] | |
| | <u>Laura Rogers</u> 11/12 RE (First United, Troy) | |
| | | |

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT - 5 Members (minimum); 9 members (maximum) (At least a total of 5 teaching elders and ruling elders), 3 year terms, max. of 6 years.

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|--|---|----------------------------------|
| <u>Brandan Eddy</u> 11/14 TE [*11/15] | <u>Elizabeth Shen O'Connor</u> TE | <u>Glenn Leupold</u> 11/13 TE |
| | <u>Ali Trowbridge</u> TE | |
| <u>Stewart Pattison</u> 11/14 TE [*11/15] | <u>Bonnie Donnan</u> 11/12 RE (West Charlton) | |

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DEVELOPMENT & VITALITY - 9 Members (minimum); 12 Members (maximum), 3 year terms, maximum 6 years.

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|
| <u>Lucy Harris</u> - TE | <u>Rachel Mastin</u> - TE | <u>Lois Wolff</u> - TE |
| TBD | <u>Leonard Sponaule</u> - TE | <u>Darren Gundrum</u> RE (Trinity, Scotia) |
| TBD | TBD | TBD |
| | | |

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH MISSION - 9 members (minimum); 12 Members (maximum), 3 year terms, maximum of 6 years.

| Class of 2017 | Class of 2018 | Class of 2019 |
|---------------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| <u>Laura Mitchell</u> - TE | <u>Karen Pollan</u> - TE | <u>Katy Stenta</u> - TE and co-chair |
| <u>Sue Bramer</u> - RE (Schoharie) | TBD | <u>Susan Strang</u> - TE |
| TBD | <u>Michael Barron</u> - RE (Hudson Falls) | TBD |

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The Moderator asked for nominations from the floor. There were none, and **Presbytery ACTED by voice vote with no audible objections to elect the persons nominated. Moderator Molyneaux prayed for the work of all of the committees.**

CLOSING WORSHIP

Closing Worship included a sermon by TE Rachel Mastin and the celebration of the Covenant of Baptism. The Necrology Report in Appendix I was made as part of a prayer, and the Memorial Reflections for TE Pat Davies and RE Helen Dickens, Past Moderator of Albany Presbytery, in Appendix J were read.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Since time was not of an essence for consideration of the following items of business that had been presented by Council in the Pre-Meeting Information, the Moderator declared at around 4:00 p.m. that there was inadequate time to consider them at this meeting and consideration and action would be postponed until the March 29, 2017, stated meeting:

1. **Draft of Amendments to the Manual of Administrative Operations including the Standing Rules** based on the new proposed Structure Plan for a first reading and questions and comments. Based on its action earlier at this meeting as noted above, Presbytery adopted the new Structure Plan and it is now a formality to amend the Manual of Administrative Operations accordingly.
2. **Amendments to the PC(USA) Constitution** that were approved by the 222nd General Assembly (2016) and require either Affirmative or Negative votes by the Presbytery.

ADJOURNMENT AND CLOSING PRAYER

Presbytery ACTED by voice vote without objections to express thanks to the pastor, session, and members of the New Covenant Presbyterian Church of Albany for hosting this meeting with the assistance of the pastor, session and members of the Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church of Guilderland and of the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Albany; to authorize payment of all bills of the Presbytery incidental to this meeting; to adjourn following Closing Prayer; and to meet next in stated session on Wednesday, March 29, 2017, beginning at 4:30 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church in Glens Falls, NY, unless previously convened in a constitutional manner.

The meeting was closed with prayer by TE Leonard Sponaugle and adjourned at about 4:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
H. Daniel Rogers, Stated Clerk