

PRE-MEETING INFORMATION FOR NOVEMBER 19, 2019, STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING

Please note that a Supplemental Pre-Meeting Information Document will be posted to the website on Friday, November 15, 2019, to include any recommendations from the numerous committees that will be holding meetings between November 12 and 15.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

The following are presented for information:

1. The following schedule of stated meetings for 2020 was approved by Presbytery on June 1, 2019:

Saturday, January 25, 2020 - Primarily Education and Spiritual Growth with Worship. Host: Korean Presbyterian Church of Albany in Schenectady, NY.

Tuesday, March 17, 2020 - Primarily Business with Worship. Host: Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church.

Saturday, May 30, 2020 - Primarily Business with Worship. PC(USA) 223rd General Assembly Co-Moderator Ruling Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri has accepted an invitation to attend this meeting. Host: United Presbyterian Church of Amsterdam.

Saturday, September 19, 2020 - Primarily Education and Spiritual Growth with Worship. Host: United Presbyterian Church of Cambridge.

Tuesday, November 17, 2020 - Primarily Business with Worship. Host: TBD.

Stated meetings in 2020 will typically begin at 9:00 a.m. with Open Space discussions; will convene for business at 10:00 a.m.; will include lunch at around noon; and will adjourn around 3:30 p.m.

2. Transfer of the Rev. Gusti Linnea Newquist to the Presbytery of Shenandoah was completed on October 21, 2019.
3. The Rev. Kukjin An has reported that he and his family received Green Cards on October 18, 2019. This makes them immigrants living in the United States of America, not temporary visitors from South Korea.
4. **As required by G-3.0109, the Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMAC) reported to the Stated Clerk that at its meeting on October 10 2019, it exercised some of the commission powers that have been granted to it and took actions on behalf of the Presbytery. Those actions are duly reported to the Presbytery in the report from COMAC below. If COMAC reports to the Stated Clerk that it exercised commission powers and took additional actions on behalf of the Presbytery at its November 14, 2019, meeting those actions will be duly reported to the Presbytery in a Supplemental Pre-Meeting Information document.**

WELSH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

If the Administrative Commission has a report with recommendations to bring to the November 19, 2019, meeting, it will be posted on November 15, 2019, as a separate document for the meeting.

COORDINATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The following are presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. The Coordination Committee met by video conference call using Zoom Video Conferencing on October 10, 2019. The Coordination Committee will meet next by video conference call on Thursday, November 14, 2019.
2. Discussions during the conference calls have centered primarily on coordination issues related to implementation of the new Presbytery Structure; communicating relevant information to Presbytery members in a timely fashion; and coordination with those working on plans for future convocations and retreats.
3. The Coordination Committee is working with the Koinonia Team to evaluate opportunities for education and spiritual growth programs to be provided in 2020.
4. The officers including Temporary Presbyter Bill Henderson meet as the Executive Committee of the Presbytery about 1 week before each Coordination Committee conference call to discuss matters of concern; to plan for Coordination Committee meetings; and to help with the coordination and implementation of the vision, ministry, and mission of the Presbytery as authorized by the Coordination Committee and provided by Standing Rule III.B.

The following are presented to Presbytery for consideration:

1. **Second reading and action on proposed amendments** to the Presbytery Standing Rules in accordance with the Memorandum dated October 28, 2019, that was sent by the Stated Clerk to all Clerks of Session and Minister Members of Albany Presbytery. Memorandum is also posted to the website as a document for the November 19, 2019, meeting.
2. The Coordination Committee nominates the Rev. Jerry McKinney to serve a second 3-year term (Class of 2022) on the **Committee on Representation and Nominations**.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH MISSION REPORT

See separate report document to be posted to the website, if available.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTERS AND CONGREGATIONS (COMAC) **REPORT**

The following items are presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. COMAC met at the Malta Presbyterian Church on October 10, 2019. The committee will meet next on November 14, 2019.
2. COMAC is in the process of reviewing the “**Living by the Gospel**” document prepared by the Board of Pensions as direct by the 223rd General Assembly and will be sharing portions of it with all congregational leaders in the near future.
3. **Bay Road Presbyterian Church, Lake George:** The Resolution Team received the appraisal of the Bay Road property on 10/16/19 and the Resolution Team will be meeting with the session on November 13.
4. **Greenwich United Church:** The Listening Team met with the session on September 23, 2019. COMAC continues to work with the session.
5. **Schoharie Presbyterian Church** – The Listening Team met with the session on October 21, 2019.
6. **Trustee/COMAC Task Force for Churches in Need:** COMAC is assisting in the creation of this task force.
7. COMAC is in the process of editing the **COM Manual**, which is currently only accessible to COMAC members as a document in the committee’s Dropbox, to change “COM” to “COMAC” along with other editorial changes. Once the editing is completed, it will be posted to the Presbytery web site.
8. After reviewing the **Rev. Holly Cameron’s Shared Grant Application to the Board of Pensions** for \$5,000 in assistance to help pay for unusual medical bills incurred during 2019, COMAC approved granting her \$2,500 (50% of the total requested) to be taken from COMAC budget line Item 1-5610 - Pastoral Care and Ministerial Assistance and acted to request that the Board of Pensions match this amount.
9. **Sexual Harassment Prevention Policy:** Bill Henderson reported that the Presbytery staff will be directed to report any sexual harassment allegations to the Personnel Committee chair. COMAC determined that ministers should be directed to report any allegations to the COMAC chair or one of the co-chairs.
10. COMAC appointed RE Meg Knight (Ballston Spa) to serve as the **COMAC liaison to FUPC, Troy**, during the pastoral leadership transition time.

The following commission actions were taken by COMAC on October 10, 2019, and are hereby reported to Presbytery for incorporation in the records of the Presbytery:

1. **First United PC, Troy & Rev. Gusti Newquist:** COMAC acted to approve the dissolution of the installed pastoral relationship at FUPC, Troy with the Rev. Gusti Newquist as of 10/15/19 and to transfer her to Shenandoah Presbytery effective 10/21/2019 at her request. The congregation of the church met on 9/28/19 at a meeting moderated by the Rev. Donna Elia and acted to consent with regret to Gusti's request that the presbytery dissolve this relationship so she can accept the call of the congregation of the Shepherdstown Presbyterian Church in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, to serve as their pastor.
2. COMAC acted to appoint the Rev. Donna Elia to serve as temporary moderator of FUPC, Troy, effective October 21, 2019.
3. COMAC dismissed the Rev. Robin Greene as moderator of the Greenwich Church and appointed the Rev. John Barclay to serve as temporary moderator of that church effective immediately.
4. COMAC acted to appoint the Rev. Bill Schram to serve as temporary moderator of Cornerstone Community Church in Lansingburgh effective immediately.

The following is presented to Presbytery for consideration:

Being guided by the Social Security increase of 1.6% to be enacted in 2020, COMAC recommends that Presbytery increase its minimum terms of call for ministers by 2% for 2020 and recommends that existing terms of call for ministers serving churches in the Presbytery be increased by at least 2%.

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

A report from the Budget and Finance Committee is included as a separate document in the pre-meeting information for the November 19, 2019, stated meeting. This report includes the proposed 2020 Presbytery Budget for presentation for a second reading and a recommendation that it be approved.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS

The committee will present its nominees for election to serve as commissioners and YAAD to the 2020 meeting of the PC(USA) General Assembly in a separate document that will be posted to the website on November 15, 2019, following its conference call meeting on November 13, 2019, and made available for handout at the November 19, 2019, stated meeting. These elections will be accomplished by paper ballot.

The committee will also present its nominees for election to serve as members of Presbytery committees in a separate document that will be posted to the website on November 15, 2019, following its conference call meeting on November 13, 2019, and made available for handout at the November 19, 2019, stated meeting.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

See separate report document to be posted to the website, if available.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND VITALITY

See separate report document to be posted to the website, if available.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

See separate report document to be posted to the website, if available.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The following are presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. The Board met on October 2, 2019, at the Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church. The Board will meet next on November 15, 2019.
2. The Board continues to meet regularly with representatives from the Budget and Finance Committee to discuss financial and accounting matters including revisions to existing loan agreements with the Cambridge and the Hudson Churches.
3. The Board continues to deal with property related matters and the significant financial losses incurred when trying to sell the vacant church properties that become their responsibility to maintain and insure when congregations are dissolved.
4. The Board continues the process of listing and selling the **Carlisle Church** property through Coldwell Banker Prime Realty (Agent Greg Tobin) with an asking price of \$100,000. Attorney Carolyn Snyder Lemmon is working to have a NYS court extinguish the deed restrictions on the property so it can be sold.
5. Trustee Don Drew expressed a willingness to be the trustee representative for the discussion of how to advise and deal with churches who no longer can afford their church buildings nor are able to sustain growth in their church.

6. **Hudson Roof Loan for \$50,000:** Trustees Donna Elia and Stephen Brown and Temporary Presbyter Bill Henderson met with the session to discuss repayment terms for the loan on Sunday, October 20, 2019. The Board will receive a report from them on November 15.
7. **Renewing the Building Assessment Team:** The Board agreed to offer Building Assessments to congregations again at no cost. Don Drew will continue to be the contact person to request these assessments.