

PRE-MEETING INFORMATION FOR JANUARY 25, 2020, STATED PRESBYTERY MEETING

Please note that a Supplemental Pre-Meeting Information Document or committee reports MAY be posted to the website on Wednesday, January 22, 2020, to include any recommendations from committees that will be holding meetings between January 14 and 22, 2020. Minutes of the November 19, 2019, will be posted to the website on January 17, 2020.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

The following are presented for information:

1. The next stated meeting of Albany Presbytery will be held on **Tuesday, March 17, 2020**, at the Mayfield Central Presbyterian Church beginning at 9:00 a.m. with Open Space discussions. The meeting will convene for business at 10:00 a.m.; will include lunch at around noon; and will adjourn around 3:30 p.m.

The remaining stated meetings in 2020 are as follows:

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.

2. Transfer of the Rev. Rob Rose to the Presbytery of Missouri River Valley was completed on December 21, 2019.
3. The Rev. Harvey Noordsey, HR, died on January 9, 2020. A Memorial Moment will be prepared for presentation either at the January 25 or at the March 17 meeting
4. The Presbytery received a letter of thanks from the Rev. Donna Elia, Executive Director of Troy Area United Ministries (TAUM), for the Presbytery's generous gift of \$2,184 designated to TAUM as well as the gift of \$2,325 towards TAUM's Campus Ministry.
5. The Membership Rolls of Albany Presbytery as of December 31, 2019, are provided as a separate document for the January 25, 2020, meeting for review and incorporation in the minutes of the meeting.
6. **As required by G-3.0109, the Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMAC) reported to the Stated Clerk that at its meeting on December 12, 2019, and January 9, 2020, 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.**

WELSH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

An oral report will be provided by the Rev. Ken Applegate at 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 December 12, 2019, and January 9, 2020. The Coordination Committee will meet next by video conference call on Thursday, February 13, 2020.
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. The team will make an oral report at the January 25, 2020, meeting.
4. The officers including Temporary Presbyter Bill Henderson and Immediate Past-Moderator Kate Kotfila 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. Discussion of and possible action to concur with Overtures to GA from Synod of the Northeast – Reference Overture folder on website.

[OVT-005] On Amending G-2.0301 to Allow Congregations to Elect Members as Ruling Elders for Service to the Larger Church

[OVT-006] On Establishing a General Assembly Administrative Commission on Mid Councils
2. Presbytery “Living Into Small” discussion.
3. Celebration of Small Church Forums.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH MISSION REPORT

See separate report document posted to the website.

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 December 12, 2019, and January 9, 2020. The committee will meet next on February 13, 2020.
2. COMAC has sent a letter to all clerks of sessions encouraging their sessions to review the “**Living by the Gospel**” document prepared by the Board of Pensions as directed by the 223rd General Assembly.
3. **Trustee/COMAC Task Force for Churches in Need:** COMAC is assisting in the creation of this task force. Bill Schram will get the representatives back together after the first of the year to discuss next steps for joint work based on some of the situations that have arisen in the presbytery this year. It has become clear that it is an ongoing necessity to do a church assessment every three years to evaluate the health of the congregation.
4. 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 in February, it will be posted to the Presbytery web site.
5. **Rev. Molly Dowell-Baum:** The Stated Clerk received correspondence from the Clerk of the Presbytery of Prospect Hill (Iowa) that the Rev. Molly Dowell-Baum will be moving to Albany presbytery area in the near future. Their COM approved her transfer to Albany. COMAC will interview her once she has moved into the area and contacted the clerk.
6. **Rev. Marilyn Creel:** The Rev. Creel was a former member of Albany Presbytery and moved out of the area circa 2000. The presbytery lost touch with her and her name was removed from the rolls of presbytery. She has made telephone contact and wishes to have her membership restored. She is currently retired in Florida. Since there is no written correspondence or actual contact information about her, COMAC deferred discussion of her request until January 2020.
7. **Terms of Call for 2020:** The committee reviewed the TOC form and made minor editorial corrections. The form was updated in early January to include the 2020 IRS mileage reimbursement rate of \$0.575 per mile and posted to the website.
8. **Sexual harassment training - delinquents:** By consent COMAC decided to put effort into getting 100% participation for 2020.
9. **Rensselaer Church:** At the request of the session, a COMAC representative will attend their session meeting on January 14th to provide information on next steps as the church explores its future viability.

The following commission actions were taken by COMAC on December 12, 2019, and January 9, 2020, and are hereby reported to Presbytery for incorporation in the records of the Presbytery:

1. **First United PC, Troy:** COMAC interviewed the Rev. Amanda Wagner (UCC). Amanda discussed her background and training, as well as how she found out about the open position. She was living in Troy and had heard a great deal of positive things about First United and wanted to apply as temporary supply there. She has been ordained in the UCC (7 years). Amanda sees her role as completing a number of projects that the Rev. Gusti Newquist had begun, particularly in helping the church grow into its smaller size. **COMAC acted to receive her as a temporary member of Albany Presbytery, pending receipt of her statement of faith (which the committee did receive shortly after December 12).** The committee noted that the contract had been modified, as requested by COMAC, to accommodate a term of one year. Amanda will be introduced at the January 25, 2020, presbytery meeting.
2. **Charlton Freehold PC:** COMAC acted to grant a waiver to extend the term of service for one of their deacons, Linda Martin, beyond 6 years.
3. **Administrative Commission for Installation of the Rev. Lynn Horan as pastor at St. Peter's PC in Spencertown on February 23, 2020:** COMAC approved the following to serve on this AC: Rev. Michael Burkley, Presbytery Moderator, Rockwell Falls Church; Rev. Kathi Jones, First Presbyterian Church, Valatie; Nancy Pienta, ruling elder, First Presbyterian Church, Valatie; Rev. Beth Illingworth, Albany Presbytery Chaplain; Bill & Charlotte Hasselbarth, ruling elders, Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church; Joel Dyslin, ruling elder, St. Peter's Presbyterian Church; and Sandy Fischer, ruling elder St. Peter's Presbyterian Church.
4. **The Community Chapel of West Glens Falls:** COMAC appointed the Rev. Lucy Harris as moderator, should the way be clear.
5. **Bethany, Menands:** By prior e-mail vote, COMAC approved RE Darryl Gundrum (Trinity, Scotia) to officiate at the Lord's Supper at Bethany Menands, on Jan. 5, 2020. COMAC will explore the commissioning of one or more CRE's to officiate at the Lord's Supper for Albany Presbytery churches as needed.
6. **The Rev. Rob Rose:** By consent, COMAC approved the transfer of the Rev. Rob Rose to Missouri River Valley Presbytery, effective the date of their request.

The following are presented to Presbytery for consideration:

1. **Charlton Freehold Presbyterian Church:** COMAC met with and interviewed RE Corlin Bauhofer as an interim candidate for this church. Corlin is a member of Trinity Presbyterian Church, Scotia. She was part of the presbytery's certified lay pastor program. She did a lot of pulpit supply during that time and then went to Ellis Hospital to be trained as a chaplain. She worked there initially and later volunteered there until

2015. The Terms of Call, detailed in the employment contract, were reviewed and approved as they exceed the minimum requirements for a CRE. **COMAC acted to recommend to Presbytery that she be commissioned as a ruling elder (CRE) for a year (2020) to serve Charlton Freehold.** In addition, COMAC acted to allow Corlin to do communion at the church the first Sunday in January prior to her commissioning by presbytery. If the way be clear and Presbytery approves her commissioning, that commissioning service will be included as part of the Worship Service on January 25, 2020.

2. Bay Road Presbyterian Church Dismissal to ECO – Reference Resolution Agreement document posted to the website for the January 25 meeting.
3. Bill Henderson reported to COMAC that the Maternity leave provisions in the Proposed revised Personnel Policies for the Presbytery remain unchanged from the 2015 version. He also reported that New York state has a new Paid Family Leave law that applies to all employees working 20 hours/week or more. **COMAC acted to recommend that Albany Presbytery act to recommend** that all churches develop their own policies consistent with the Presbytery policy and in compliance with the state law and that churches contact their insurance carriers about adding a rider to their policies that would cover legal requirements for medical, maternity and paid family leave.
4. COMAC acted to recommend that Albany Presbytery concur with **[OVT-018] Paid Family Leave** – Reference Overture folder on website

COMMITTEE ON BUDGET AND FINANCE REPORT

A report from the Budget and Finance Committee will be included as a separate document in the pre-meeting information for the January 25, 2020, stated meeting when it becomes available.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION AND NOMINATIONS

The Committee nominates the Rev. John McAuley, Jr. to the Board of Trustees, Class of 2022.

COMMITTEE ON LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

The Committee recommends that Presbytery act to remove RE David Haase (First PC, Albany) from candidate status so he can pursue CRE status without prejudice.

COMMITTEE ON CHURCH DEVELOPMENT AND VITALITY

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

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE REPORT

The Committee recommends that Presbytery act to approve the Revised and Restated “Personnel Policies and Practices – Albany Presbytery” that are posted as a separate document for this meeting on the website.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES REPORT

The following are presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. The Board met on December 4, 2019, and January 8, 2020, at the Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church. The Board will meet next on February 5, 2020.
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. 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.
5. **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.
6. **Grants and Loan Fund application from the West Charlton Presbyterian Church session:** Consideration of this application on January 8, 2020, was postponed from the December 4, 2019, meeting so the Board could gather more information and hear from church representatives. Tom Gregg and two members of his church reviewed their application for funding needed to complete a \$145,000 project to repair the church roofs and paint the entire building. Tom reported that while the total cost of the project was for \$145,000, they had to do \$41,000 of the work this past fall which they funded by member loans. So, the current need to complete the project is \$106,000. Copies of the applications and related documents had been provided to Board members prior to the meeting and are on file in the Board files.

The Board thanked them for their presentation and excused them from the meeting. After much discussion and deliberation, the Board acted to award a grant of \$10,000 and a loan of \$40,000 at no interest for 15 years to the session. The Grant and Loan payments will be made directly to the contractor as work progresses this summer with the stipulation that no funds will be used by the session to repay loans received from church members. Monthly loan repayments by the church will be expected to begin in September 2020.

7. **Board Officers:** At its meeting on January 8, 2020, the Board acted to elect Carl Hasselbarth to serve as President; Donna Elia to serve as Vice President and Treasurer; and Stephen Brown to serve as Secretary for 2020. The Stated Clerk agreed to prepare minutes for the January and the February meetings. Stephen will begin to prepare minutes for Board meetings in March 2020.

8. **Carlisle Property Sale:** A contract with Ann Linda Tharp and Esther Antosha Tharp-Kindley to purchase the Carlisle Church property for \$55,000 was accepted by the Board. Since he was excused from the meeting on January 8, Don Drew was unable to report on the status of the contract and obtaining court permission to proceed to a closing.
9. **Rensselaer:** Bill Henderson advised the Board on January 8 that it is the congregation's goal to have a final worship service on Pentecost (May 31, 2020) and to dissolve at some subsequent date. Assuming that the Presbytery will be asked at its meeting on May 30 to approve this dissolution and since the Trustees generally issue a recommendation to Presbytery regarding a church's dissolution before the matter is brought to the Presbytery, Carl Hasselbarth requested by email to the session on behalf of the Board that Rensselaer propose a distribution of its assets to the Trustees at least two Trustee meetings prior to the Presbytery meeting when it wishes to be dissolved. So, if Rensselaer wishes to be dissolved at the May 30th Presbytery meeting, then the Board would need the session's proposal before the Board's April 1, 2020, meeting. This way there will be plenty of time to discuss and possibly refine the proposal before it is brought before Presbytery.