

**Presbytery of Albany**  
**Three Hundred and Thirtieth Stated Meeting**

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

January 23, 2021

Ruling Elder Judy Hartley, Moderator, called the meeting to order at about 10:00 a.m. The Rev. Rebecca Lawson Putman, Stated Clerk, gave a brief orientation and instructions for how the meeting would be run and how voting would work on the Zoom platform.

**Stated Clerk's Report**

**The roll was compiled.** The Stated Clerk announced a quorum was present and noted the number of those from whom she had received requests to be excused (2) and those who requested permission to arrive late or leave early (3). Charts reporting the meeting attendance of Minister Members of Presbytery and Ruling Elder (RE) Commissioners from churches are included as Appendices A and B to these minutes. Voting delegates present for all or portions of the meeting included 40 Minister Members, and x RE Commissioners: x REs representing x Congregations, and x REs who are officers. An additional x persons signed in as visitors. Those attending their first presbytery meeting were welcomed.

Upon motion duly made and seconded, **Presbytery ACTED by electronic poll to approve the docket for the meeting dated January 7, 2021.**

Upon motion duly made and seconded, **Presbytery ACTED by electronic poll to approve the minutes of the 329<sup>th</sup> stated meeting as distributed prior to the meeting.**

**RE Dan Rogers, RE Laura Rogers, and RE Mary Ewart were seated as corresponding members** and former moderators of the Presbytery.

**The following were presented by the Stated Clerk for information:**

1. The membership of the Rev. Alexandra Lusak (Honorably Retired) was transferred to the Presbytery of Western North Carolina effective June 30, 2020.
2. The next stated meeting of Albany Presbytery will be held on **Tuesday, March 16, 2021**. This meeting will happen on Zoom. The meeting will convene for business at 10:00 a.m. and will adjourn around 1:00 p.m.

The meeting dates for the rest of 2021 are as follows: June 5, September 18, and November 3, 2021. The locations, times, and content of the meetings are to be determined. It is very likely the June meeting will happen on Zoom.

3. **As required by G-3.0109, the Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMAC) reported to the Stated Clerk that 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.**
4. **As required by G-3.0109, the Board of Trustees reports to the Stated Clerk if they exercise some of the commission powers that have been granted to them and actions they have taken on behalf of the Presbytery. Those actions are duly reported to the Presbytery for information and inclusion in the minutes of the Presbytery. The Board of Trustees did not exercise any of their commission powers since the last Presbytery meeting.**

### Coordination Committee Report

#### The following were presented to the Presbytery for information:

1. The Coordination Committee met by video conference call using Zoom Video Conferencing on December 10, 2020. The Coordination Committee will meet next by video conference call on Thursday, January 14, 2021.
2. Discussions during the conference calls have centered primarily on communicating relevant information between committees and to Presbytery members in a timely fashion; coordination with those working on plans for future convocations and retreats; how to coordinate and support our churches during this pandemic period; and planning for the implementation of the Anti-Racism Task Force.
3. The Coordination Committee discussed when to resume in-person Presbytery meetings and whether or not all winter meetings in the future should be held virtually. The January and March meetings of 2021 will be held on Zoom, and it is probable that the June 2021 will be as well.

#### The following was presented to Presbytery for consideration and action:

The Committee recommended that the Presbytery donate \$1000 to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Congregation in the Presbytery of Southern New England, who had recently experienced a tragic fire. Upon motion duly made, **Presbytery ACTED by electronic poll to approve the donation.**

## **Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMAC) Report**

### **The following items were presented to the Presbytery for information:**

1. Commissioners were reminded to submit 2021 terms of call forms for pastors as soon as possible after their approval.
2. Ministers and church employees were reminded to take the New York State mandated sexual harassment prevention training. The Presbytery provides this training free of charge to minister members.

### **The following commission actions were taken by COMAC and are hereby reported to Presbytery for incorporation in the records of the Presbytery:**

COMAC reviewed and approved the **Terms of Call** for the following minister members of Albany Presbytery: Amanda Wagner (UCC) and Andrea Holroyd.

## **Committee on Representation and Nominations**

### **The following items were presented to the Presbytery for information:**

1. Following the completion of RE Terry Diggory's term, the Rev. Andrea Holroyd will serve as the chairperson for the Committee.
2. Commissioners were reminded of the importance of serving on committees of the Presbytery and how they can help the Church further the reign of God in the world and enhance the spiritual lives of committee members.

### **The following were presented to Presbytery for consideration and action:**

Michael Casey (Glens Falls, First) was nominated to serve as the Young Adult Delegate to the Mission and Ministries Commission of the Synod of the Northeast. Nominations from the floor were invited, but no one was nominated. Upon motion duly made, **Presbytery ACTED by electronic poll to approve Michael Casey to serve on the Synod's Mission and Ministries Commission.**

## **Mission Committee Report**

### **The following items were presented to the Presbytery for information:**

1. The Committee will be accepting campership applications from February 1 until March 1. The process was described, and commissioners were encouraged to share the information with their congregations.

2. The Committee is accepting new applications for mission partners for 2022. Commissioners were encouraged to contact the Rev. Ted Wright (HR) for more information.
3. The Mission Committee now administers **Rural Initiative** and **New Initiative** grants. Both of these are presbytery-level incentives to upgrade congregational outreach. The Committee can also serve as the Presbytery's liaison to Self-Development of People, Hunger Program grants, and to various Mission Program grants administered by the Presbyterian Church (USA).

### **Committee on Budget and Finance Report**

The 2020 year-end financial statement was presented to the Presbytery. It is included in these minutes as Appendix C.

### **Personnel Committee Report**

#### **The following item was presented to the Presbytery for information:**

The Personnel Committee is meeting twice a month in order to carry out the Staffing Model Task Force directives. They are currently working on honing the job description for the Administrator position and determining the best way to release this description and what the interview process will be like. The Committee currently has two permanent members and three who have joined for six months, just for the Administrator search process.

### **Committee on Leadership Development**

#### **The following items were presented to the Presbytery for information:**

1. There are currently three Candidates for Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) who are pursuing their call while working full-time, and there are two active CREs in the Presbytery.
2. The Committee is in discussion with the Rev. Beth Illingworth, Presbytery Chaplain, to develop a program for Spiritual Formation for current CREs and Candidates for a specified program for self-development for ministry.
3. In tandem with the Spiritual Formation piece is the importance of promoting CRE ministry within our Presbytery and its usefulness to congregations in need of

pastoral leadership, as well as identifying opportunities where current Candidates may serve. The Committee is looking to coordinate with COMAC to facilitate together this process.

### **Board of Trustees Report**

#### **The following were presented to the Presbytery for information:**

1. **The Waterford Church:** The process of selling the church property continues. There are firm offers, but the pandemic has delayed court approval of the sales.
2. **Oakwood:** The transfer of the Oakwood Church property to the Oakwood Community Center is in legal process, awaiting court approval.
3. **Technology Grant Update:** The grant program ended on December 31st. The trustees gave out grants totaling \$74,061 to 21 churches. The grants varied from \$650 to \$5,000, which was the maximum matching amount. The following churches received a grant:

Albany, First Presbyterian Church of Albany  
Albany, Westminster Presbyterian Church  
Ballston Spa, First Presbyterian Church  
Bethany, Menands  
Broadalbin, First Presbyterian Church Broadalbin  
Brunswick Presbyterian Church  
Charlton-Freehold Presbyterian Church  
Cornerstone United Church  
Delmar Presbyterian Church  
Hamilton Union Presbyterian Church  
Hebron United Presbyterian Church  
Mayfield Presbyterian Church  
Northville United Presbyterian Church  
Salem Presbyterian Church  
Schoharie Presbyterian Church  
Scotia, Trinity Presbyterian Church  
Stephentown Presbyterian Church  
Stillwater United Church  
Troy, Third Presbyterian Church  
Troy, United Presbyterian Church  
West Charlton

4. The leadership of the Board changed on January 1. The Rev. Donna Elia became the president and the Rev. Kate Kotfila the vice-president. The Board

thanks RE Carl Hasselbarth (Guilderland, Hamilton Union) for his six years of service on the trustees, many as president.

### **Unfinished and New Business**

The Moderator noted that there was no unfinished or additional new business to be considered. Commissioners were invited to share briefly in an “open mic” period.

RE Roger Ellis (Granville) shared that he had received his vaccination for COVID-19, and he encouraged all participants to get the vaccine when they are eligible, and it is available.

RE Arthur Fullerton (Albany, Westminster) shared his desire to research reparations for descendants of slaves and potentially have the Presbytery submit a resolution to the next General Assembly. He will work with anyone interested and the Anti-Racism Task Force.

Two videos were shared with the presbytery. One was to celebrate some of the women ministers in Albany Presbytery, and the other was about Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, New York.

### **Worship**

Worship was led by the Rev. Kathryn Beilke, Vice Moderator. She offered the sermon, and the Rev. Kathi Jones presided at the sacrament of the Lord’s Supper. Presbytery was invited to contribute an offering to Soul Fire Farm in Grafton, New York. The women ministers and leaders in Albany Presbytery were recognized and celebrated.

**Presbytery ACTED** to authorize payment of all bills incidental to this meeting; to adjourn following the closing prayer; and to meet in next stated session on March 16, 2021 beginning at 10:00 a.m. via Zoom teleconference, unless previously convened in a constitutional manner.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Moderator Hartley at about 12:10 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Rev. Rebecca Lawson Putman, Stated Clerk

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