

Presbytery Meeting Highlights

November 19, 2016 First Presbyterian Church Tuckerton



On a chilly autumn morning, folks from the Monmouth Presbytery began to arrive for the meeting that was to begin at 9:30 a.m. Tuckerton provided the bright, cheery gathering space. Hot beverages, and light sustenance greeted the travelers.

The Rev. Anthony Maimone, Pastor of Tuckerton welcomed the Presbytery to the church. Shortly after the Report of the Stated Clerk, worship began with a few congregational, followed by a music video,

[“The Wound is Where the Light Gets In”](#) by Jason Gray. In and amongst the music proceedings, the choir offered their combined vocal talents to lead the congregation. As they sang a choral anthem, “Come to the Courts of the Lord,” reflections on “wounds” were collected and brought forward. Rev. Ford next presented a brief video of Alan Boesak, key writer of the Belhar Confession. Tying the theme altogether, Rev. Ford presented a sermon entitled, Pouring Light into the Wound. The Sacrament of the Lord’s Supper concluded the service.



During the worship period, time was taken to honor the Rev. Scott Cupp. He will be retiring from his position as pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Matawan, effective December 31, 2016.



He was honored first by the Rev. Kathleen Jamhoury, part-time Interim pastor of Sayreville.



Rev. Gary Filson, Moderator, then acknowledged Rev. Cupp with his own words.

Next, the Rev. Cynthia Ritter Parker reported on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Nominations were as follows: The Rev. Anthony Maimone, Committee on Ministry, class of 2019 and The Rev. Theresa Swenson as Trustees President. After the Moderator, Rev. Gary Filson, offered an opportunity for nominations from the floor, the Presbytery voted to close the nominations and cast a unanimous ballot for the slate.

Ruling Elder Sue Smith, Presbytery Vice Moderator and one of the Presbytery's Commissioners to the Synod of the Northeast, presented a report on the Synod's recent Assembly, particularly the Synod's action to divest from investments in fossil fuel companies.

Ruling Elder Thad Livingston, Chair of Committee on Ministry reported next. It was moved and carried to adopt a [minimum compensation policy](#)

With gratitude for the Rev. Robert Carter's service to both the Trinity Presbyterian Church of East Brunswick and the Presbytery of Monmouth, it was moved and carried, when the way is clear, to dissolve the relationship between Mr. Carter and the Trinity Presbyterian Church and to approve Mr. Carter's transfer to the Presbytery of Baltimore, effective January 2, 2016. Mr. Carter has been offered a call to become pastor of the Towson Presbyterian Church of Towson, Maryland.

Mr. Livingston reported that the Rev. Scott Thayer, associate pastor of the Presbyterian Church of Toms River, has received a call to become associate pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Court Square in Harrisonburg, Virginia, a congregation of the Evangelical Covenant Order of Presbyterians (ECO). His last day at Toms River is expected to be December 31st.

Vice Moderator Sue Smith stepped forward to give the report of Mission Council. **It was moved and carried to change the date of the May stated Presbytery Meeting to Saturday, May 20th, 2017, location to be determined.**

Ruling Elder Bill Faust presented the report of the Mission Council's Budget Committee, noting that the Mission Council is recommending the approval of the Presbytery's 2017 budget of \$347,879.

Rev. Phyllis Zoon, Presbytery's Hunger Action Advocate described the advocacy and food justice work that many of the churches are doing.

The Rev. Deirdre Thomson and Ruling Elder Joyce Davies described upcoming leadership training events, particularly the Equipping the Saints leadership training event at Princeton Theological Seminary on January 21, 2017 from 9:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.



Lunch! That doesn't stop some people from carrying on with their work.

Elder Sherri Adler, Genesis Center Director was on hand the entire time to provide educational guidance and resources for all.



Reverend Merideth Mueller, prior Tuckerton pastor, and current pastor, Rev. Anthony Maimone took to the podium for this terrific photo op.



Rev. Mueller also took a moment to share a Tuckerton secret. This photo shows where a fire almost started... on Pentecost Sunday.



After lunch, Ruling Elder Walt Vincent, Hightstown, introduced David Teich from that congregation who showed images of sanctuary art installations created by the congregation's Art Ministry. They use organza, cardboard, paint, magnets, sewing, ironing. "Bringing Faith to Life"



Bills and Overtures

On behalf of the Bills and Overtures Committee, the Stated Clerk gave a presentation on the proposed new Directory for Worship. The Presbytery will vote on this and other proposed Constitutional amendments at its next meeting.

The next Presbytery meeting is scheduled for 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 25, 2017 at the Trinity Presbyterian Church of Cherry Hill, NJ. This will be a joint meeting with the Presbytery of West Jersey.

