

# Presbytery Meeting Highlights

Saturday, November 18, 2017 Trinity Presbyterian Church, East Brunswick



Trinity Presbyterian Church of East Brunswick was the destination for the final Monmouth Presbytery meeting of 2017. The Rev. Kathryn Mustaro welcomed the presbytery and reported on arrangements. The beautiful sanctuary served well for the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins of the Presbytery of New Hope, whose sermon, **“God Guarantees a Place at the Table,” based on James 2:1-7**, was steeped in the relevance, and significance of hospitality for all God’s people.



Assisting in worship and at the celebration of the Lord's Supper were the **Rev. Kathryn Mustaro, East Brunswick** and the

Rev. Kathleen Jamhoury, Sayreville. Shea T. Velloso played the organ and the Chancel Choir and guests provided special music. The Trinity Ringers handbell choir also played.



### Keynote

**Elder Rick Ufford-Chase, co-director of the Stony Point Center,** gave a keynote address on what it means to reimagine the church to witness to the gospel in the present day.



The Presbytery recessed so attendees could participate in two workshops:

**"Presbyterians and Advocacy, We Go Together"**

**led by the Rev. Jimmie Hawkins**

**"Community Formation for the Challenging Work of Being Church"**

**led by Elder Rick Ufford-Chase**



**Sound bites from Rev. Hawkins:**

“The world needs the church”

“Desperate need for advocacy”

“Prophetic voice for church and community”



**Sound bites from Rick Ufford-Chase’s Workshop:**

Business as usual, is over

The end of the church as we know it, and I feel fine

Hopefulness of the small communities of faith to have a large impact

## **Lunch**

At the conclusion of the workshops, presbyters enjoyed a lunch prepared by members of Trinity Church. It's also a good time to catch up with Genesis Center Director, Sherri Adler, and all the new resources available, including The New Book of Order!



## **Report of the Stated Clerk**

After the Presbytery reconvened following lunch, the Rev. Carl Wilton, Stated Clerk, announced that the Mission Council received a letter from the Rev. Merideth Mueller, resigning from the position of Presbytery Vice Moderator, effective December 31, 2017 or upon the election of a successor, whichever comes first. In the letter, Ms. Mueller explained that she is seeking positions in interim ministry, which means she will not likely be able to complete the typical three-year commitment of serving as Vice Moderator, Moderator, and then Past Moderator. It was moved and carried to accept the letter with regret.

## **Mission Working Group**

The Rev. Phyllis Zoon reported for the Mission Working Group that the Belmar, Cranbury churches of the Presbytery have been named Hunger Action Congregations.

Ms. Zoon also reported, on behalf of Sabbath House, of a recent visit by PCUSA mission workers Jeff and Christy Boyd.

The Rev. Lisa Lancaster reported on recent programs that have been offered by Sabbath House. She encouraged congregations to use the facility for retreats and meetings.

## **Leadership Training Working Group**

The Rev. Merideth Mueller advised the Presbytery of the upcoming Equipping the Saints leader training event, jointly sponsored by a partnership of Princeton Theological Seminary and the Presbyteries of Elizabeth, Monmouth, and New Brunswick. The event will take place on the seminary campus on Saturday, January 20, 2018.

## **Mission Council**

The Rev. Merideth Mueller reported on behalf of the Mission Council.

Mission Council's approved the following Vitality Grants to churches for 2018:

Shrewsbury, \$5,000, Autism Spectrum Inclusiveness Initiative

Toms River, \$4,000, Special Needs Ministry

New Egypt, \$5,000, Sabbath House

Englishtown, \$4,380, E-Café community dinner outreach

Hightstown, \$1,000, A Voice for All — Kids Club

The Mission Council has recommended to the Mission Working Group that the Cranbury church's request for \$2,500 for the Windsor Hightstown Area Ministerium Youth (WHAMY), an interfaith ministry, be funded from the Peacemaking Fund. Ms. Mueller further reported that the Mission Council voted to fund the Point Pleasant church's application for \$1,400 to cover half the fee of the Synod's New Beginnings Program from memorial funds given in memory of the Presbytery's late General Presbyter the Rev. Wendy Bailey, noting that church revitalization was one of Ms. Bailey's passions in ministry.

## **Report of the Moderator**

Moderator Sue Smith reported on Mission Council discussions with respect to staffing models and their proposal that the 2018 budget be built on the Shared Leadership Model. She assured the Presbytery that, having spoken with representatives from many other presbyteries at the recent Mid Council Leaders Gathering, Monmouth is not alone in having no Presbytery executive.

## **Budget Team**

Elder Bill Faust recommended, on behalf of the Budget Team and the Mission Council, the "Shared Leadership" staffing model to the Presbytery for 2018, with projected revenues and expenses of \$271,500, with the Presbytery paying forward to the Synod and the General Assembly only the amount of per capita received. The projected amount of per capita in the proposed budget is \$77,356 (approximately 70%), as compared to the full apportionment of \$109,783.

It was moved and carried to approve the 2018 budget.

## **Nominating Committee**

On behalf of the Nominating Committee, the Rev. Cynthia Ritter-Parker presented the following slate of nominees:

Vice Moderator

The Rev. Hannah Lovaglio, Cranbury

Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly (2018)

Elder Nancy Tindall, Allentown

Elder Glenn Sandberg, East Brunswick

The Rev. Linda Goeddel, Chaplain

The Rev. William Morris, Belmar

Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 223rd General Assembly (2018)

Sara Sharpe, Farmingdale

Alternate General Assembly Commissioners

Elder Ken Gordon, Cranbury

The Rev. Diane Ford, Lincroft

Alternate Young Adult Advisory Delegate

Jordan Heinzl-Nelson, Allentown

Committee on Ministry

The Rev. Kathryn Mustaro, East Brunswick, Class of 2020, First Term

Elder John Czekaj, Bayville, Class of 2020, First Term

The Rev. William Turner, Ocean, Class of 2020, First Term

Committee on Representation

Elder Julissa Alvarez-Garcia, Cliffwood Beach, Class of 2020, First Term

Board of Trustees

Elder Robert Carson, East Brunswick, Class of 2020, First Term

Mission Council

The Rev. Diane Ford, Lincroft, Class of 2019, First Term

## Committee on Ministry

Elder Thad Livingston, Jacksonville, presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

It was moved and carried that, when the way is clear, the Presbytery dissolve the relationship between the Rev. Jeffrey Carney and the First Presbyterian Church of South Amboy effective January 8, 2018 and, when the way is clear, transfer Mr. Carney's membership to the Presbytery of Los Ranchos.



It was moved and carried to affirm the unanimous call by the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Bordentown to the Rev. William M. Stell of the United Church of Christ as Pastor. Mr. Stell remains a member of the United Church of Christ and, under the Formula of Agreement, will be a temporary member of the Presbytery for the duration of the call.

It was moved and carried, upon request of both the congregation and the Committee on Ministry, to appoint an administrative commission to work with the Session of the Morning Star Presbyterian Church of Bayville to help them resolve issues of diminished financial support and to explore the future viability of the congregation, including the possibility of seeking a tenant or buyer for the building, with the authority to assume original jurisdiction if necessary.

It was moved and carried, upon the recommendation of Moderator Sue Smith, to appoint the following people as members of this administrative commission:

Elder Bill Faust, Red Bank, Chair  
Elder Dale Genberg, Tuckerton  
Elder Bette Hughes, Point Pleasant  
The Rev. William Morris, Belmar  
The Rev. Linda Goeddel, Chaplain

It was moved and carried that the Board of Trustees be authorized to act on behalf of Monmouth Presbytery, upon the recommendation of the Morning Star administrative commission, to sell the property currently used by the church and to enter into any commitments pertaining to that sale.

The Rev. Julie Thompson will be installed as Associate Pastor for Spiritual Formation at the First Presbyterian Church at Red Bank on January 13, 2018 at 4:00 pm.



Mr. Livingston advised the Presbytery that, for 28 years, the Rev. Suzanne Schafer Coates has served as minister to the Meadow Lakes continuing care retirement community in Hightstown, but that season is coming to an end. Meadow Lakes was established by the Presbyterian Homes of New Jersey that is now known as the Springpoint Corporation. The Meadow Lakes Community's last worship service will take place on Sunday, December 31, 2017, with pastoral care to the residents being provided in the future by Springpoint's chaplain. Mr. Livingston expressed gratitude to Ms. Schafer-Coates for her faithful service. She will continue as a parish associate at First Presbyterian, Cranbury.

## Open Mic

Representatives of several churches shared news of happenings in their congregations.

Elder Walter Vincent, Hightstown, a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance National Response Team, reported on hurricane recovery work in Florida and Puerto Rico.

The Presbytery adjourned at 2:30 p.m., to reconvene at 4:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 27, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church of Manasquan, New Jersey.



**Rev. Hannah Lovaglio being installed as Vice-Moderator**