



## THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND

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Greetings!

It was a joy to have everyone gather at Bethany January 25<sup>th</sup> to greet friends, make new ones, and hear from those who labor and minister on behalf of our Presbytery, sharing what they have been up to on our behalf. Bethany responds willingly to every challenge, and your positive comments about the reception and arrangements were due in large part to the careful planning by Pastor James Rea, who also, as always, worked right alongside us to set up and later restore the building for worship. We were delighted to introduce you to the Bethany Brass Group, who have enriched our worship over the past year, and humbled as always by the musical contributions of our Music Director Yoon Bae. And we are all blessed that the culinary sustenance generously and graciously provided by the Flushing House / United Adult Ministries team lifts everyone's spirits and enlivens our opportunities for fellowship.

Even while conferring the title “Honorably Retired”, retirements are not easy either for those doing so, or for all others who have known and been shepherded by those who have decided it is their time to leave full time ministry. The statements honoring Rev. Karen Hybertsen and Rev. Fred Woodward gave just a hint of the amazing legacy they will leave as they move on in their individual journeys. We wish them well. In his tribute to Karen, Rev. Colby Rohde shared the insight that the opposite of peace is anxiety, and reminded us that prayer with thanksgiving can help us overcome difficulties by living and working through them, while understanding that we can never entirely avoid them.

In her sermon the Rev. Kymberley Clemons-Jones urged us to be Influencers, not just self-satisfied or comfortably affluent, basking in our riches, but working with others to change oppressive systems and respond to the needs of the world as the Bible instructs us to.

### In Summary:

- The Second Reading of Amendments to the Bylaws regarding Sexual Misconduct to meet the standards of NY State Law was approved.
- We heard the heartfelt story of Rev. Rob Stuart's devotion to the Mission to Cuba for the past two decades, and the improvements and the bonds they have forged with several small churches and communities there.
- Mark Tammen explained that as the membership of Presbytery has dropped below 10,000 members, our delegation will be smaller than anticipated, but we celebrated the selection of Commissioners who will attend the 224<sup>th</sup> General Assembly this summer in Baltimore, MD: Rev. Joshua Jong (New Hyde Park) and Elder Ellen Gove (Shelter Island), Young Adult Aiseosa Irowa (Hempstead). Alternates will be Mary Martin Sweet (Roosevelt) and Adam Fischer (Baldwin).
- We were made aware of previously elected members of the Permanent Judicial Commission whose terms had expired, but who remain available should one or more of them be needed to constitute a quorum for action by this body: Class of '18: Rev. Chester Easton (Mineola), Carol Santos (Center Moriches) and Ronald Travis (Southampton-Shinnecock); Class of '16: Jerry Mauder (Middle Island) and Class of '14 Sandy Santana (IEPNA).
- We were happy to hear from Non-Parish Clergy who shared their activities of the past year.
- We were delighted to hear from Treasurer Patrick Knight that the books for the year 2019 were balanced, that Per Capita fulfillment has been rising, and that Mission Giving had surpassed its budgeted goals.

- Churches were well-advised to consult the Board of Trustees before executing any lease or building-sharing agreements, to ensure they are protected to the fullest extent possible.
- Mark Tammen advised us that with senior housing development occurring around the Presbytery Center property in Hauppauge, the Trustees have been approached, and that we might be wise to consider whether an alternative location might be considered for our Presbytery headquarters.
- Barbara Messier was delighted to accept the nomination of Barbara D'Andrea to serve on Shepherding Council, which was approved unanimously. As chair of the Nominating Committee she appealed to all churches to send her names of potential nominees to fill vacancies on the many Committees and Councils of Presbytery.

Mark Tammen's Report as the General Presbyter challenged us to be open to the forward movement of history. Just as the invention of the printing press enabled publication of the Gutenberg Bible, opening the Scriptures for the first time to laypeople as well as the clergy, now in an age of innovation, can we open ourselves and our congregations to utilize rapidly changing technology, which may offer the Church the opportunity to receive and spread God's message in new ways to coming generations? Change isn't easy, but being stuck in the past isn't either...

Rev. Kymberley Clemens-Jones, outgoing Moderator, led the ceremony as the new team of Moderators for 2020 was installed: Elder Magalene McClarrin (Roosevelt) as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Moderator, Rev. Joshua Jong (New Hyde Park) as 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice-Moderator, and Elder Janet Allen-Spencer (Bethany, Huntington Station) as Moderator for 2020. The installation of a new Moderator is humbling, and I ask your prayers and God's help as we transition to a new year, which will bring new joys and new challenges to our team of Moderators and to the Presbytery as a whole.

Peace and Blessings,

*Janet Allen Spencer*

Moderator, Elder Janet Allen-Spencer  
Bethany Presbyterian Church, Huntington Station

#### UPCOMING DATES

##### **Stated Meeting Presbytery**

Tuesday, March 31, 2020 11:30 Workshop / 1:00pm Meeting

First Presbyterian Church of East Hampton 120 Main Street, East Hampton NY 11937

##### 2019 Minutes Review

March 7, 2020 Westhampton @ 9:30 am

March 11, 2020 Presbytery Center Commack @ 7:00 pm

March 21, 2020 Baldwin @ 9:30 am