



THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND

42 Hauppauge Road • Commack, New York 11725-4499
(631) 499-7171 • FAX (631) 499-7063

October 19, 2020

Greetings,

Based on the evaluation feedback from our first "hybrid" Presbytery meeting, held Tuesday, September 29, there were some successes, and you found some things that, as the saying goes, "need improvement." Thanks to all who went on this roller coaster ride with us and responded so thoughtfully. We give great thanks to our tech team, Charlene Apsel, Gloria Burgess, and Laurie Vu, who planned for weeks and worked very hard the entire day to link those at Arumdaun in Bethpage and those of you scattered far and wide joining us on Zoom.

The essential business was transacted, reports were delivered, life and lives were remembered and celebrated. We will gather once more this year, on Saturday, October 24, for Presbytery Day, to be held only on Zoom and open to everyone. Registration for the Zoom Webinar can be found on our webpage presbyteryofli.org (*more info below*)

MOTIONS approved:

- Minutes of the June 30 meeting were approved.
- Dates were set for the four Presbytery meetings in 2021, with a recommendation from the Mod Squad to hold them all next year on Saturdays, beginning with 1/30 @ Memorial in Roosevelt. For the other three, 4/24, 6/26, 9/25, we hope that churches whose sites allow for adequate social distancing as well as having the technical capacity needed to hold a hybrid meeting will offer to host one of these dates.
- Heard the First Reading of a proposed change in the Presbytery Bylaws and Standing Rules to celebrate the Sacrament at the spring meeting and then at our fall meeting to hold the Remembrance of Necrology, remembering elders who joined the Church Triumphant during the previous year.

Committee on Ministry

Chair, Elder Pat Francis, summarized the incoming and outgoing pastors and renewals of ongoing terms. The COM has recommended no increase in terms of compensation from 2020 to 2021. The Meeting Packet contains information each session should consider based on whether their church has a manse or provides their pastor with a housing allowance.

Nominating Committee

The proposed slate presented by chair Barbara Messier was approved, adding Rev. Vanessa Winters (Westhampton) and Elder John Volpe (Bellmore) to COM, Rev. Adrian Pratt (Bridgehampton) to Salt & Light, and electing Rev. Michael Smith (HR) as 2nd Vice Moderator.

Worship

Rev. Betsy Simpson brought us a wonderful message on the saints as we near All Saints Day. With musical accompaniment from Leonora Coletti, Rev. Josh Jong pinned figures onto a banner created by Laurie Vu as the names of the 41 elders from our Presbytery who joined the Church Triumphant in 2019 were read. The beautiful banner created for this event is now available for churches to borrow and display as they reopen, perhaps linking it to ways to remember and honor some treasured 'saints' among their congregations.

Advance Planning Team

Rev. Matthew Means addressed the challenges of presenting this meeting as the first hybrid, acknowledging that since we live in a hybrid world, we have no choice but to be learning as we go. Feedback from those attending today live or via ZOOM will be especially important in planning future meetings. Looking ahead, Matthew asked all congregations to consider whether they can offer sufficient space and adequate tech capacity to host any of the three remaining meetings in 2021, with the possibility that they might be hybrid.

Shepherding Council

Rev. Kymberley Clemons-Jones highlighted plans for this year's Presbytery Day to be held solely on ZOOM.

Presbytery Day October 24, 2020, 9:30 am -12:30 pm

"Co-Conspirators in the Cause of the Gospel"

Rev. Ray Jones and Rev. Carlton Johnson

We are in the midst of a new, important period of reformation. Amid three pandemics (COVID-19, racial injustice, and climate change), the church is faced with the urgency of what it means to be the body of Christ for the world. Civil religion supports the ways of the empire. The church is being called beyond civil religion to join God's mission of justice and hope.

There is a deep connection between congregational vitality and dismantling structural racism.

The church is being equipped to go where Jesus went. We are being equipped to live as Jesus lived. In other words, we are becoming co-conspirators in the cause of the gospel. This means that we die in order that others live. We work together to defeat racism and catalyze restoration in our neighborhoods.

Lifelong discipleship formation is a lifetime of living in the way of Jesus. We hold our possessions in common to support people in need (Acts 2:44-45). When we realize that people on the margins are being left out, we respond immediately (Acts 6:1-7).

Come join us as we share what it means to be co-conspirators in the cause of the gospel.

New Church, Fellowship and Development

Elder Marilyn Fox gave an update on Glenwood Landing, whose programs were primarily suspended during the lockdown. Recovery has been slow, as people are cautious about all kinds of group activity. Waiting for GA's approval to join the Presbytery of Long Island, the United Korean Presbyterian Church move into the New Hyde Park Church is going very well. Rev. Choi, the Pastor of Korean United, has been offered the chance to move his family into the Roslyn Manse to reduce his commute from Queens. The Mision Presbiteriana Emanuel congregation led by CRE Gustavo Sanchez, who is currently worshipping at the Presbyterian Church of the Moriches manse/Church, has been approved to begin worshipping in the Remsenburg Church in November.

Treasurer Patrick Knight presented a report for July and August. The current deficit is (\$ 101,000). To help with NCD expenses, we will be taking out the distributions from the NCD Merrill Lynch fund monthly rather than annually. Delayed by COVID, the 2019 Financial Review will start shortly. He emphasized that an essential Webinar for all Treasurers will be held Thursday morning, October 8, at 11:00 am.

Rev. Jeff Prey reported that it is essential for the **Board of Trustees** that every congregation preparing to reopen must submit their plan to the Trustees in advance, showing how all required health and safety elements will be fully met. These plans will be kept on file by the Trustees. Failure to do this will have insurance implications. He also reported that the sale of the properties in Manorville and East Moriches is progressing.

The meeting's offering will go to the PC (USA) Peace & Global Witness Offering. Congregations are encouraged to study the GA's materials and consider how their 25% local share might be used toward meeting needs for conflict resolution or healing divisions in their communities or beyond.

Thanks to all for their patience and good humor as the details of this new process were worked out and, of course, new challenges were identified. Feedback from those attending today, whether live or via ZOOM, will be especially important in planning future meetings and events. We are committed to facilitating processes that will minimize travel from one end of the Island to the other where possible. For that, we welcome learning new ways, as challenging as they are for many of us.

Peace and Blessings until we meet again, *Janet Allen-Spencer, Moderator*