Rev. Joshua Jong, Moderator Rev. Mark A. Tammen, Stated Clerk

WE GATHER TOGETHER

The Presbytery of Long Island of the Presbyterian Church (USA) held a Stated Meeting via ZOOM on Saturday, January 29, 2022, with 84 in attendance. The meeting was called to order with Call to Worship and prayer by the Moderator, Rev Joshua Jong Moderator, at 9:00 am. A quorum was present.

Roll Call - Separate document

WELCOME GUESTS AND BEGIN OUR WORK

Elders attending a Presbytery meeting as First Time Church Commissioners were introduced and welcomed.

Reception of New and Corresponding Members

Elder Elona Street-Stewart/ Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) Kyle Branin/Holmes Camp Elder Alex Chu/Arumdaun Englis Ministry

Elona Street-Stewart Co-Moderators of the 224th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is a descendant of the Delaware Nanticoke Tribe and is the first Native American to serve as a Moderator of the PC (USA) as well as the first to serve as a synod executive in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). A ruling elder and a longtime staff member of the Synod of Lakes and Prairies, she has served in the synod since 1994. Before taking the position, she had been the synod's associate for racial, ethnic ministries and community empowerment.

Approval of Docket

Motion Approved: The Presbytery approved the amended docket of January 29, 2022

New Presbytery Office

Laurie Vu showed a presentation on the Presbytery's move and the new office.

Stated Clerk Report

Motion Approved

- a) The Presbytery approved the minutes of the Stated Meeting held on September 25, 2021
- b) The Presbytery approved the Annual Non-Parish Clergy Report for 2021. (Appendix A pp 5-9)
- c) The Presbytery approved the list of Teaching Elders as of 12/31/21. (Appendix B p 10)

Motion Approved

That Presbytery confirm the election of corporate officers for 2022

Class or 2022	Rev. Jeffrey D. Prey	Oyster Bay	President
Class or 2022	Rev. Robert Griffin	HR	
Class of 2023	Elder Steve Bodden	Deer Park	Secretary
Class of 2023	Elder Amelia Chin	Oceanside	
Class of 2024	Elder Philip Jones	Valley Stream	
Class of 2024	Elder David Ploth	West Islip	
Class of 2024	Elder Bill Phillips	Center Moriches	

Motion Approved

The slate as presented by the Nominating Committee

Committee on Ministry

Class of '24 CRE Kerry Riddle - West Islip
Class of '24 Elder Ms. Chris Boken - Oceanside
Class of '24 Elder Alex Lyons - Hempstead
Class of '24 Elder Jean Hrbek - Setauket
Class of '23 Rev. Paul Gaug - Babylon

Motion Approved

To receive the reports of the following committees presented, COM (Appendix C-pp 11-17) and Treasurer (Appendix D-p 18)

Motion Approved

The trustees recommend that the Presbytery approve the sale of the building from Presbyterian Community Church at 150 Pittsburgh Ave, Massapequa to the Point Community Church (Assemblies of God denomination) for \$1,700,000, contingent on the way being clear.

First Reading of By-Law changes (Appendix E - p 19)

Equalization

In accordance with the form of Government, G-3.0301, The Stated Clerk has determined that the number of resident ministers of the Presbytery during the first week of January was 54, and the number of elders the churches are entitled to send as commissioners to presbytery meetings was 66. Therefore for 2022, there is no need to equalize the membership of the Presbytery further.

Roster of names for the Permanent Judicial Commission

According to the Rules of Discipline, D-5.0206b, AThe Stated Clerk of the governing body shall keep a roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years. The names shall be arranged alphabetically within classes beginning with the most recent class. Whenever the permanent judicial commission reports its inability to obtain a quorum, the stated clerk shall immediately select, by rotation from that roster, a sufficient number of former members of the permanent judicial commission to constitute a quorum. The stated clerk shall report the roster annually to the governing body.

The following persons constitute the roster for 2022:

Class of '22	Diane Perry	(Westhampton)
Class of '20	Rev Fred Woodward	(HR)
Class of '18	Rev. Chester Easton	(Mineola)
	Carol Santos	(Center Moriches)
	Ronald Travis	(S'hampton Shinnecock)
Class of '16	Jerry Mauder	(Middle Island)
Class of '14	Sandy Santana	(IEPNA)
Class of '08	Rev Jeanne Baum	(HR)

Session Annual Statistical Reports

2021 are due by midnight on February 17, 2022. Call (631-499-7171) or email (laurie@presbyteryofli.org), the assistant to the Stated Clerk, if you have any questions about the system. Remember - the longer you wait to input, the longer it will take to get on the system.

WORSHIP

Scripture Reading - Exodus 2:3-10

Message - "Can't Hide It Any Longer"/ Elder Elona Street-Stewart

Moderator Street- Stewart compared the reception by the Pharoh's daughter of baby Moses (and Israelite) into the larger Egyptian society to the inclusion of one group (African Americans) into the American Culture.

Report of the General Presbyter / Rev. Mark Tammen (Appendix E - p 20)

Music | Need You to Survive/Hezekiah Walker - Performed by Choresis from Memorial Presbyterian Church

Overture - Elder Magalene McClarrin

Discussions - Breakout Groups

The Presbytery broke up into nine breakout rooms to discuss the Overture and two questions

- 1. Looking back to the historical actions of our denomination, in what ways is it important for us to name and claim the sins of our past in order to engage opportunities for present and future ministry?
- 2. If the Presbytery sends this Overture to the 2022 General Assembly and asks it to apologize, how will that action change our behavior toward each other so that Presbyterians 100 years from now will not need to apologize for us?

Motion to approve amended Overture

Recommendation

As a beginning step in the quest for truth, equity, justice, reconciliation, and repair, The Presbytery of Long Island overtures the 225th General Assembly (2022) to offer AN APOLOGY TO AFRICAN AMERICANS FOR THE SIN OF SLAVERY AND ITS LEGACY, and to approve the following statements:

Rationale

Racism is not only an endemic and ongoing problem in America but is on the rise. The Presbyterian Church (USA) has taken productive steps to address and challenge racism. We must continue to build on and augment that progress.

The Presbyterian Church could claim that it was in theory anti-slavery based on its 1818 statement, but the fact is the majority of its leadership was heavily contaminated by white supremacy. James Thornwell and others proposed a positive theological defense of slavery. Charles Hodge and Robert Breckinridge took an accommodationist stance, denying that it was sinful but calling for its eventual and gradual elimination. Albert Barnes was the only prominent theologian who argued that it was sinful and preached abolition. The enslaver, the accommodationist, and the abolitionist all shared the same communion table. The Presbyterian Church's failure to take prompt action in early colonial times, or to take a strong stand, later on makes it complicit in normalizing one of the most vicious systems ever to exist in the USA chattel slavery.

(Contuined to next page)

1706	1740	1750	1776	1787-1817	1818	1830	1836	1858
Rev. Francis	Samuel	George	Jacob Green,	GA	The GA held	Presbyterian	The GA	Scottish
Mackie,	Davies, an	Bryan, a	the pastor of	supported the	enslavement	evangelist	bowed to the	immigrant
enslaver,	enslaver and	Philadelphia	the Hanover,	abolition of	as	Charles	pressure of	Covenanters
organized the	educator,	Presbyterian	NJ	slavery, but	inconsistent	Finney spoke	the Church	and
first American	believed	Leader, was	Presbyterian	support for	with the law	out against	being split	Seceders
Presbytery	slavery was	an	church,	manumission	of God.	slavery	and accepted	formed the
	ordained by	abolitionist.	opposed	or disciplining	The GA	despite	the argument	United
	God but	He also	slavery	enslavers	defrocked	believing	that slavery	Presbyterian
	cared about	helped pass		was	Rev. George	African	was	Church of
	their	a 1780		lukewarm	Bourne from	Americans	recognized in	North
	spirituality	colonial			Virginia for	were inferior	the Bible and	America
	and literacy	Pennsylvania			condemning	and opposed	to act	(UPNA).
		law				integration.	otherwise	Opposition to
		mandating					interfered in	slavery was
		gradual					state laws.	one of their
		emancipation						five founding
								tenents

Music "Believe For It"/CeCe Winan's

<u>Closing Prayer & Benediction</u> Moderator closed the meeting with prayer and benediction at 12:00 pm.

Next meeting The next Stated Meeting of the Presbytery will be held on Sat., April 30, 2022, on ZOOM

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Appendix A – pp 5-10

2021 ANNUAL REPORT RESPONSES FROM NON-PARISH AND HONORABLY RETIRED CLERGY

Validated Ministry

1. **Emily Arnold** - In 2022, I will continue serving as the communications director at First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove. In February, I will join the Pastoral Care team at NY Presbyterian Hospital in Queens as a per diem chaplain one to three days per week. My work from 2021: Chaplaincy Long Island, Jewish Forest Hills from August 2020-February 2021 (24 hours per week), Worked as a solo chaplain in a 200-bed community hospital during the second wave of Covid, primarily in the ICU and with the palliative care team and Offered staff support. Cohen Children's Medical Center from February 2021-December 2021 - Worked as one of three chaplains at a 200-bed children's hospital, primarily in the ICU and step-down unit with the palliative care team, and Offered staff support, especially to medical students, interns, and residents. Pulpit supply- I have preached about once per month for different churches since joining the Presbytery, and I have gotten to serve communion once within the Presbytery. Church communications at the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove as FPC's Communications Director, I create social media content for Facebook, Instagram, AnchorFM (podcast creating a website), YouTube, and the Church's website, Edit bulletins, newsletters, and website, Serve as a sounding board for Rev. Lana Hurst for ministry within the Church and community and Provide on-call pastoral care when Rev. Hurst is away

I believe that my ministry, one that focuses on providing rest and care, fits the description of the mission of God's people within three different vocational areas. Firstly, one of my strongest callings is to offer rest and care for my neighbors in ministry by providing opportunities for Sundays off and delegating tasks that can distract them from their most important ministry activities. I live this out through my work as a pulpit supply preacher and communications director. I listen to the pastors' assessments of the needs of their congregations, and I use my sermons and liturgy pieces as pastoral care in response. I use the Word of God to help build up people's spirits, beliefs, and courage. When called upon, I serve at the Table and remind them of the embodied love of God. Secondly, I offer rest, care, and an embodied presence of God's love in inpatient rooms and staff meetings at hospitals. I try to bring light into bleak places, knowing that God is present, even when nobody in the room sometimes including me - can see God at work. I live out our common calling from Paul to "rejoice with those who rejoice [and] weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with one another; do not be haughty, but associate with the lowly; do not claim to be wiser than you are" (Romans 12:15-16, NRSV). For the ministry-related study and professional development, I serve on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (CPM), Pulpit supply, Participant of Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church's Young Adult group, and Church attendee at home church in NJ or Manhasset Congregational Church in NY when I'm not preaching or isolating due to Covid concerns.

Message to the Presbytery: I am grateful for the support you provided while searching for a new job. I also appreciate your connecting me with different pastors who want pulpit supply. Thank you so much.

Immanuel Bae - Chaplain at St. Francis Hospital, Roslyn NY

Jongmi Bae- Manager of Chaplaincy Education at North Shore University Hospital Northwell Health, ACPE Certified Educator, BCC

Griffin, Robert – No Report

Aaron T. Hicks is working as a "cross-cultural evangelist and church planter" with Serge Global International, an interdenominational mission agency with roots in the Reformed/Presbyterian tradition (www.serge.org). For the last 11 years, he has served as lead pastor/church planter to a new-church development in Granada, Spain. We are spending Christmas this year in the USA (for the first time in 5 years

Christine J Hong is employed at Columbia Theological Seminary as the Associate Professor of Educational Ministries and the Director of Doctorate in Educational Ministries program. CTS is located at 701 S. Columbia Drive, Decatur, GA 30030. As part of my faculty appointment, I teach courses in my field of scholarship (Religious and Interreligious Education). I participate in governance through committee work. My work also brings me alongside the life and vocational discernment of students through advising and mentoring. I participate in the life of the Seminary community through worship and fellowship throughout the academic year. The mission statement of CTS says the seminary exists: to educate and nurture faithful, imaginative, and effective leaders for the sake of the Church and the world. As faculty members, we take a vow at the beginning of each year to teach faithfully into these commitments named through the institution's mission. My daily teaching, mentoring, and participation in the life of the seminary community towards the aims of developing faithful leaders for God's world and God's Church is guided by this mission statement. Throughout the pandemic, I have not been able to attend worship in person. I have two small children, one who is not yet eligible to be vaccinated. Therefore, we have been attending worship via zoom. Our Church of membership is Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Doraville, GA. The congregation has worked hard on migrating worship online, but it has been difficult to do so for small children. Therefore, our family has patched family worship together on Sundays through zoom worship, home worship, and other strategies. It's been difficult, but we've learned a great deal through our time together. Sometimes, I am invited to participate in worship as the preacher or liturgist in different worshipping communities or conferences around the country via zoom. One such memorable moment last year was keynoting the NEXT Church conference. Though I miss the face-to-face connection with friends and colleagues, online worship and gatherings of the Church have been instrumental in being able to connect with a wider network and visit different communities I would not otherwise see or meet on a regular basis.

Message to the Presbytery: Once again, in another year of this pandemic, I am grateful for the work of our Presbytery and the congregations therein. I am increasingly mindful of how stretched we all are in our work and vocation and pray for our collective and individual strength and peace. Especially, the strength to be able to say No and the strength to take rest without guilt so that we may be well. Also, the peace to know that God is comforting and strengthening God's people in ways beyond our knowing.

Eun Joo Kim - No Report

Amos Shin - No Report

Jeehoon Song - During the past year and a half, I've been serving as the Assistant Pastor for Discipleship and Admin

at Open Door Presbyterian Church, located at 2999 Centreville Rd, Herndon, VA 20171. I have been serving as a pastor, preaching and helping to administer the sacraments. Also, counseling church members, teaching seminars/classes for leadership development within the Church. I have also been involved in writing a curriculum for our Church's small group ministry and helping people grow spiritually mature (discipleship) and grow more missional in their everyday surroundings. Also, helping with the communications and administration at the Church - getting the word out to congregation members on the various events/activities at the Church.

Message to the Presbytery Hello everyone! I hope you are all doing well and staying safe and healthy!

HONORABLY RETIRED

Choong Sik Ahn - No Report

Angela B. Archer – Enjoying Retirement

Jeanne W. Baum - No Report

Randall J. Broger Continues to be ultra-cautious in light of Covid to be active in the life and work of the Presbytery this

year. Ministry-related studies involve issues of conflict concerning politics and religion that seem to become more toxic every day. Im providing pastoral care to family members who have has losses. To neighbors who are ill and even personal doctors and friends with illness and loss. On the bright side, we share in the joys and accomplishments of our children, grandchildren, and extended families. *Message to the Presbytery* – *We take the Covvett convertible for a drive all over Long Island every chance we get. We do take out at least once a week and love each other. I practice the Piano weekly. Pat and I read our books for about 1 hour as we shared some pre-dinner goodies and enjoy a glass of wine at the end of the day.*

Susan Cardone - No Report

Charles M. Cary - Chuck serves as Pulpit Supply in many of our East end churches and Northport and Smithtown. For professional development, individual preparation, reading journals such as Christian Century, Interpretation, etc., and Daily prayer using the book of Common Worship. Chuck is a member of Bread for the World, Doctors with Borders, and volunteers for Long Island Cares.

Tom M. Castlen – Tom has participated in 3 out of 4 virtual Presbytery meetings and is a faithful worshipper and in the life of the Setauket Presbyterian Church with support to the pastors, staff, and elders. For other ecclesiastical activities, Tom attended virtually, Poor People Campaign. Tom enjoys visits with family offisland, providing a safe gathering place for nearby family and friends, and enjoying the lives of grandsons in their music and sports.

William S. Causey - No Report

Yvonne Collie-Pendleton - No Report

Richard Crayton - No Report

Jean Dix – Recently moved to a Nursing Home facility

George Gaffga - No Report

Kenneth E. Graham Ken has participated in virtual Presbytery meetings and worshiped at the Baldwin Presbyterian Church. Outside the Presbytery, I've visited Princeton Theological Seminary and worked with AMOS (A Movement of Solidarity) along with other L.I. Clergy to address social justice issues here on Long Island. For fun, Ken is seeing friends from college and seminary via zoom.

Karen Sue Hybertsen - Karen is active in the life and work of the Presbytery by attending Presbytery meetings via Zoom. Given pandemic conditions, my support has primarily been financially supporting the Ringwood Presbyterian Church's food pantry mission. Ministry-related study and professional development, Karen continues to work on her book, Letter to a Comfortable Church: A Pastor's Journey with Romans. I recently completed the 8th chapter of the first draft. Other ecclesiastical activities have included joining with her mother (in San Diego) each week for worship with her congregation. They will be returning to their sanctuary on November 7 and launching a hybrid ministry. As my mother no longer drives, I will continue to worship remotely with her as she looks forward to that hour together. For fun, until I broke my arm at the end of October, I was busy with prepping my garden for the winter and kayaking on the lake, as well as quilting. All of the above are on hold at least until spring, but I have a pile of books that aren't on Paul or Romans to enjoy. *Message to the Presbytery Greetings to all, and many thanks for the continuing opportunity to join you virtually for Presbytery*

John W. Kloepher – Move to North Carolina

Donald R. Knight – - No Report

Angus Ian Campbell Laing - attends a men's weekly Bible study at First Presbyterian Church in Babylon while attending worship at First Presbyterian Church of NYC, Our Lady of Lourdes parish in Massapequa Park, and Church of Ascension NYC. Ecclesiastical activities include involvement in prison ministries and formerly incarcerated individuals. Ian enjoys reading, travel, and yard work for fun, maintaining two strands of bamboo in his back yard. Message to the Presbytery – Hoping Presbytery will take an active role and interest in prison ministry on L.I. and in Kids in Foster Care facilities which are destroying too many young people.

Paul Moon – No report

Paul Rack – Paul has been active in the Presbytery by serving as guest preacher at Baldwin and Smithtown churches and continues to be on the pulpit supply list. For the Synod, Paul has taken minutes for meetings and served on the Synod's outreach to the Shinnecock Nation last summer. Paul co-hosted the Zoom aspect of worship, played in the bell choir through the end of October, and assisted as a reader at the First Presbyterian Church of Baldwin. Professionally he continues to "technically" be the Stated Clerk for the former Presbytery of the Palisades until it ceases to exist. Paul has a blog on various theological/ecclesiastical issues and sends out a daily meditation by email to those who request it. www.raxweblog.blogspot.com. For fun, Paul enjoys trips to CitiField, reading, writing, listening to music, canoeing the local waterways, and walking with his wife.

Elisabeth K. Simpson - (Betsy) Resides in PA and is currently connected with First Presbyterian Church Bethlehem, PA., serves as a liturgical reader, greeter, and communion server. Betsy stays very active in the LI Presbytery by attending Presbytery meetings, the Chair of the Glenwood Life Center Commission's and serving on a Pastoral Inquiry Commission. Being retired, I have spent time reading and participating in an Adult study at the First Presbyterian Church, Bethlehem, PA. Betsy is on the Executive Committee of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship and the Executive Committee of the Center and Library for Bible and Social Justice. Betsy enjoys reading, films visiting with family and friends, taking daily walks, and helping at a local community farm are all sources of fun and enjoyment.

Michael F. Smith - First Vice-Moderator

Norman D. Stanton - No Report

Robert B. Stuart - No Report

Holly Haile Thompson – No Report

Bruce S. Wagner – No Report

Frederick H. Woodward - No Report

Ralph B. Wright, Jr. - Ralph stays very active in serving the Presbytery as a Presbytery Disaster Assistance Committee member, the Presbytery Budget Committee member, and a member of a Special Presbytery Commission. As a Tentmaker Pastor, my second vocation is that of an accountant. Therefore helping churches with financial statements and helping pastors and church staff with their annual tax filings is a service I to continue to provide. As Pulpit Supply - Since January 1, 2020, I have served in various capacities the following churches: United Presbyterian Church of Levittown and Massapequa; First Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn; Brentwood Presbyterian Church; The Old Whalers' Church (Sag Harbor); Port Jefferson First Presbyterian Church; Old South Haven Presbyterian Church; Christ's First Presbyterian Church (Hempstead); First Presbyterian Church of Northport; Mattituck Presbyterian Church. For ministry-related study and development, working with the director of Methodist Studies at Lancaster Theological Seminary, I have completed a chapter of a soon to be published book on Bivocational Ministries. The book is a compendium of various Christian theologians and ministers regarding the future leadership paths on all levels for individual parishes and judicatories, educational institutions, and the mission of the Christian faith in an ever-changing culture and world. Other ecclesiastical activities consist of Chaplain of the Yaphank Fire Department, Chair of the Friends of the Lakeview Cemeteries - Patchogue, NY.; Officiant at Funeral Services for various area residents. I'm keeping up with my family for fun and enjoyment that begins on Long Island and stretches to Salt Lake City, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Singapore, Florida, and Germany.

Message to the Presbytery- Being locked down by the Covid-19 Pandemic has been difficult for many individuals and families. But it has been extremely difficult for churches and their ministries. It has been, even with governmental financial assistance, for some parishes, a disaster. Food pantries have been a good ministry, but youth and children ministries have often collapsed. Yes, we need to get our families back on their feet, but the same is true for our churches. Yes, Zoom is a great way to communicate. Use it for Bible, Theological, and Mission Studies but don't forget the need for in-person fellowship. Church suppers and social events need to be restarted and expanded. Likewise, summer parish youth camps, holiday parties, events, pre-school nurseries, scouts, trips to the city or other parts of our nation, etc. We need a revitalization of our Christian churches a new Reformation. It isn't going to happen unless we all work and pray together.

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

Kyungsoo Choi - No Report

Nancy S. Jennings – No Report

Terri Ofori- No Report

Anne Stewart-Miller - No Report

Min Jung Park - No Report

INACTIVE

Carol Maher – No Report

Appendix B - p 10

1b

Report of the Stated Clerk Stated Meeting of Presbytery - Huntington Station - January 30, 2021

Teaching Elders as of December 31, 2021

Active Members (46)

Adkison Stephen D Ahearn, Moira Applewhite, Mark UCC Barnum, James W. Bhatti Iftikhar Bigwood, Sarah Carter, Dennis Choi, Jee Ho

Clemons-Jones Kymberley

Coello, David Cubie, James Easton, Chester J. Gaug, Paul A. Graugh, Richard N Hoffmann, William Hughes, Wanda Lawry Hurst, T. Lance - UCC Johnson, Glorya J. Jones Calone, Kathryn Jong, Joshua H. Kelley ,Peter J. Maconochie, Linda Madrigal, Alexander McCachren, Scot McFaul-Erwin, Ashley Means, Matthew T.

Pratt, Adrian
Prey, Jeffery D.
Rack, Susan
Rea, James B., Jr.
Rohde, Colby
Rosario, Ida

Moore, Janice

Mulligan, Katie

Pond, Wade

Roth, Marjory J. Roth, Russ W. Saunders, Tracie A.
Shin, Samuel C.
Tammen, Mark
Van Cleef, Ann - UCC
Vione, Rachel Phillip
Whitman, Candace
Williams, Scott B.
Winters, Vanessa-UCC
Wood, Ronald F.

Honorably Retired (28)

Ahn, Choong Sik Archer, Angela B Baum, Jeanne W. Broger, Randall J. Cary, Charles M. Case-Cardone, Susan Castlen, Tom M. Causey, William S. Collie-Pendleton, Yvonne Crayton, Richard J. Dix, Jean M Gaffga, George E. Graham, Kenneth E. Hybertsen, Karen Kloepfer, John W. Knight, Donald Laing, lan Moon, Paul G.

Simpson, Elisabeth K. Smith, Michael F Stanton, Norman Stuart, Robert B.

PARK, Sang K.

Rack, Paul

Thompson (Davis), Holly Haile

Wagner, S. Bruce Woodward, Frederick H. Wright, Ralph B., JR.

Inactive Members (1)

Maher, Carol J

Member at Large (5)

Choi, Kyungsoo Jennings, Nancy S. Miller Stewart, Anne

Ofori, Terry Park, Min Jung

Validated Ministry (9)

Arnold, Emily
Bae, Immanuel
Bae, Jongmi
Griffin, Robert
Hicks, Aaron
Hong, Christine J
Kim, Eun Joo
Shin, Amos
Song, Jeehoon

Total 89

Appendix C- p 11- 17

Report of the Committee on Ministry Presbytery of Long Island Stated Meeting –Zoom – January 29, 2022

At its meeting of October 12, 2021

Information

 MSP The COM dismisses the Commission that installed the Rev. Wade Pond to the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow on September 26, 2021.

Contracts

- 1. The Committee approved the renewal of the Temporary Supply Pastor contract between the Session of the **First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove and the Rev. T. Lance Hurst**, for the period November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2022, at the following terms (joint with Glenwood Table 20 hours/week (GC) and 5 hours/week GT): Cash Salary, \$33,650 (8,650 GC and \$25,000 GT/presbytery); Manse Allowance, 1,500 (GC); Tax-Deferred Investment, 2,400 (GC); Free Use of Manse (annual fair rental value, 36,000); Full Utilities, heat, electricity, and water, 5,000 (GC); Pension and Medical, Minister's Choice Plan, pension, death, and long and short term disability, 7,355, and medical, UCC Plan, 14,021 = 21,376 (GC); Additional Insurance, NA; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 5,825 (GC); Automobile Expense Reimbursement, church business mileage at IRS standard rate; Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, 2,400 (GC); Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement, 5,000 (GC); Vacation, 30 days, including 5 Sundays; Continuing Education Time, 14 days, including 2 Sundays; Paternity Leave per presbytery guidelines; Moving Expenses, NA.
- 2. The Committee voted to approve the Interim Pastor contract between the Session of the **Arumdaun**Presbyterian Church (Eastern Korean Presbytery) and the Rev. Eun Joo Kim for the English Ministry (Presbytery of Long Island) for the period November 1, 2021, through October 31, 2022, at the following terms: (3/4 time or 30 hours/week): Cash Salary and Housing Allowance, \$66,000; Tax-Deferred Investment, NA; Pension and Medical Dues, Pastor's Participation Plan, 24,420; Additional Insurance, NA; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 5,049; Automobile Expense Reimbursement, 1,440/year (fixed amount); Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, 1,200; Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement, full reimbursement of official expenses; Vacation, 7 days; Continuing Education Time, 7 days: Maternity Leave per church policy; Moving Expenses, NA.

 An exception was granted for the Automobile Expense Reimbursement, Vacation, Continuing Education Time, and Maternity Leave are below the Long Island Presbytery minimums. The Committee recommends that these benefits be increased to meet the minimums of the Long Island Presbytery. It also requests copies of the relevant Arumdaun church policies and wishes to share Long Island Presbytery policies with them.
- 3. The Committee approved a Temporary Supply Pastor contract between the Session of the First **Presbyterian Church of Greenlawn and the Rev. Ann Van Cleef,** for the period October 12, 2021, through October 11, 2022, at the following terms (2/5 time or 16 hours/week): Cash Salary, \$31,200; Housing Allowance, 0; Tax-Deferred Investment, 0; Pension and Medical Dues, NA; Additional Insurance, NA; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 0; Automobile Expense Reimbursement, NA; Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, NA; Continuing Education

Expense Reimbursement, NA; Maternity Leave, NA; Moving Expenses, NA. The terms are below the presbytery minimum.

- 4. The Committee approved the change of position from Designated Pastor to Temporary Supply Pastor for the Rev. Dennis Carter at Community Presbyterian Church, Deer Park, effective March 1, 2022, and the Temporary Supply Pastor contract between the Rev. Carter and the Session of the Church for the period March 1, 2022, through February 28, 2023, at the following terms (3/4 time or 30 hours/week): Cash Salary, \$54,827, Housing Allowance, 25,000; Tax-Deferred Investment, NA; Pension and Medical Dues, Minister's Choice Plan, \$7.982; Additional Insurance, NA; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 6,106; Automobile Expense Reimbursement, church business mileage at the IRS standard rate; Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, 375; Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement, 1,213; Vacation, 30 days, including 5 Sundays; Continuing Education Time, 14 days, including 2 Sundays; Paternity Leave per presbytery guidelines; Moving Expenses, NA. The benefits are below the presbytery minimum.
- 5. The Committee approved the call of the **Rev. Rachel Vione to be Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Northport** effective November 7, 2021, at the following terms (full-time): Cash Salary, \$85,300; Manse Allowance, 2,000; Tax-Deferred Investment, 2,000; Free Use of the Manse (annual fair rental value, 35,000); Full Utilities, heat, electricity, and water (approximate annual cost, 8,000); Pension and Medical Dues, Pastor's Participation Plan, 45,991; Additional Insurance, Dental PPO, member and spouse, 1,025; Vision Coverage, member and spouse, 92 = 1,117; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 9,967; Automobile Expense Reimbursement, church business mileage at IRS standard rate; Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, 3,000; Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement, 3,000; Vacation, 30 days, including 5 Sundays; Continuing Education Time, 14 days, including 2 Sundays; Maternity Leave, NA; Moving Expenses, NA.

The Committee further affirmed the Session's call for a congregational meeting on October 17, 2021, to act on the recommendation of the PNC.

MSP - The Committee also approved the following Installation Commission for the Rev. Rachel Vione on November 21, 2021, at 3:00 pm: Moderator, Elder Magalene McClarrin; Rev. Matthew Means (Huntington, Old First); Rev. Ron Wood (Smithtown); Rev. Janice Moore-Caputo (Malverne); Rev. Ann Van Cleef (Greenlawn); Rev. Charles Cary (HR); Elder Carol Gandy (Northport); Elder Ken Asselta (Brookhaven); Elder Gary Stuber (Merrick); Elder Elizabeth Philipp (Brick Presbyterian Church, New York City); and Elder Frank Sansone (Melville).

At its meeting of November 9, 2021

Information

• On October 30, 2021, a Forum was held via zoom with the Transitional Synod Leader of the Synod of the Northeast and churches from the Long Island Presbytery. The purpose of the Forum was to offer the members of the IL Presbytery an opportunity to converse with Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman Ashley.
Some youth from four churches, Oceanside, Valley Stream, Roosevelt, and Bellmore, made various presentation in the form of – songs, prayer, skits, an organ rendition, and welcome greetings. The youth blessed us with their expressive talents. Rev. Ashley was impressed and emotionally moved by the youth's presentations. Rev. Ashley answered questions from those present and discussed a "Time of New Beginnings." She ended her conversations by saying that she longs to communicate with us (LI Presb.), wants to know us, and listens to our issues.

- Rev. Dennis Henderson is an active Elder at Roosevelt Church. He is currently serving on the Session as an Elder, leading various ministries in the Church. His role via COM will only serve as a backup for Rev. Russ Roth as Russ ministers at the Baldwin Church every Sunday for the next three months.
 - MSP The COM approved Dennis Henderson to serve as a backup for Rev. Russ Roth if needed
- MSP The COM dismissed the Commission that installed the Rev. Wade Pond to the Presbyterian Church of Sweet Hollow on September 26, 2021.
- MSP The COM dismissed the Commission that installed the Rev. Dr. Stephen D. Adkison to the Shelter Island
 Presbyterian Church on October 17, 2021.

Worship Services Online

MSP to promote the Synod of the Northeast December 26, 2021, Online Worship Service to the Presbytery and offer four services Winter, Spring, Summer, and Fall for churches to use as needed.

Compensation Report - Betsy Britton

Elder Betsy Britton has completed the Compensation Report.

MSP The Committee voted to approve the 2020-2021 Compensation report, including changes in terms of call for installed pastors, and the separate narrative summary of the report. (attached)

• Rev Dr. Sang Kun Park

MSP – to accept the transfer of membership of **Rev. Dr. Sang Kun Park** from the Maryland Presbytery to the Presbytery of Long Island

• **Rev. Jee Ho Choi** is the pastor of the Korean United Presbyterian Church currently nesting at the New Hyde Presbyterian Church, which transferred in 2020.

MSP - to accept the transfer of membership of **Rev. Jee Ho Choi** from the New York City Presbytery to the Presbytery of Long Island

Contracts

- 1. The Committee voted to re-commission Ruling Elder Richard King to service at the Cutchogue Presbyterian Church for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, granting him permission to administer the Sacraments, to perform marriages as allowed by New York State law, to moderate session meetings, and to have voice and vote at Presbytery meetings. The Committee also voted to approve the Commissioned Ruling Elder contract between the Session of the Cutchogue Church and Ruling Elder King for the same period at the following terms (half-time, or 20 hours/week): Cash Salary, \$28,493; Housing Allowance, NA; Tax-deferred Investment, NA; Pension and Medical Dues, NA; Additional Insurance, NA; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 2,179; Automobile Expense Reimbursement, NA; Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, NA; Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement, NA; Vacation, four weeks; Continuing Education Time, two weeks.
- 2. The Committee voted to re-commission **Ruling Elder Mario Fernandez to service at Primera Iglesia Presbiteriana Hispana de Brentwood** for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, granting him permission to

administer the Sacraments, to perform marriages as allowed by New York State law, to moderate session meetings, and to have voice and vote at Presbytery meetings. The Committee also voted to approve the Commissioned Ruling Elder contract between the Session of PIPH and Ruling Elder Fernandez for the same period at the following terms (half-time, or 20 hours/week): Cash Salary, 0; Housing Allowance, \$14,360; Tax-deferred Investment, NA; Pension and Medical Dues, NA; Additional Insurance, NA; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 1,119; Automobile Expense Reimbursement, church business mileage at IRS standard rate; Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, 300; Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement, 900; Vacation, 2 weeks; Continuing Education Time, 1 week.

		The	Presbytery	of Long 1	sland			
		:	2020-2021	Compens	ation			
			Manco (Churches				
Comp	 ensation r	 eported = Cash S			ance + Ta	ax-deferred inve	estment	
Church	<u>Members</u>	<u>Pastor</u>	Yrs Ord	Position	Hrs/Wk	2020 Comp \$	2021 Comp \$	Change
						(*below minim	um)	
Amagansett	85	C. Whitman	7	DP	40		52,785	
Babylon		P. Gaug	41	P	40	68,666	68,666	0.0%
Baldwin		Vacant				00,000	33,000	
Bellmore	290	J. Barnum	34	Р	40	66,812	68,098	2.0%
Bridgehampton	151	A. Pratt	36	DP	20		29,480	#
Center Moriches	153	M. Applewhite	33	TSP	25		10,000	k
East Hampton	163	S. McCachren	4	Р	40	no report	no report	
Freeport/Merrick	128	M. Ahearne	25	TSP	40	41,000	* 41,000	0.0%
Garden City	103	W. Hughes	28	Р	40	57,383	* 57,383	* 0.0%
Glen Cove	35	T. L. Hurst	1	TSP	20	14,750	* 12,550	* #-15.0°
Huntington, Old First	260	M. Means	16	Р	40	64,400	66,936	4.0%
Huntington Station	94	J. Rea	32	Р	40	64,919	64,919	0.0%
Islip	103	C. Rohde	4	DP	40	50,633	* 52,000	2.7%
Levittown/Massapequa	158	K. Mulligan	12	TSP	40	54,500	54,500	0.0%
Mattituck	245	J. Cubie	7	IP	40		71,000	
Melville	99	W. Pond	8	Р	30		39,780	
Middle Island		D. Coello	8	Р	30	38,928		
Mineola	60	C. Easton	35	Р	20	13,600	* 13,600	0.0%
Montauk		W. Hoffmann	25	Р	40	no report	no report	
New Hyde Park	25	J. Jong	30	TSP	40	2,350	* 2,500	# 6.0%

		N	1anse Ch	urches	page 2			
Com	pensation i	reported = Cash Sal	ary + Ma	nse Allov	ance + T	ax-deferred Inv	estment	
Church	Members	<u>Pastor</u>	Yrs Ord	Position	Hrs/Wk	2020 Comp \$	2021 Comp \$	Change
						(*below minim	um)	
Northport	309	R. Vione	6	P	40	87,900	91,300	3.9%
Oceanside	72	R. Roth	10	DP	25	47,553	48,458	2.0%
Oyster Bay	208	J. Prey	32	Р	40	72,820	72,820	0.0%
Remsenburg	12	Vacant						
Roslyn	30	M. Roth	10	TSP	30	59,878	62,273	4.0%
Sag Harbor/Springs	132	L. Maconochie	37	TSP	40	61,915	61,915	0.0%
Setauket	461	A. McFaul-Erwin	3	AP	40	54,200	56,113	3.5%
Smithtown	292	R. Wood	33	IP	40	65,809	65,863	0.0%
Southampton	348	S. Bigwood	5	Р	40	61,000	61,000	0.0%
Southold	423	P. Kelley	34	Р	40	82,824	84,538	2.0%
Valley Stream	100	K. Clemons-Jones	16	TSP	20	40,000	40,000	# 0.0%
Westhampton	277	V. Winters	7	Р	40	56,000	58,222	4.0%

		Hous	ing Allow	ance Chu	rches			
Compe	nsation re	ported = Cash Sala	ry + Hous	ing Allow	ance + T	ax-deferred Inv	vestment	
Church	Members	Pastor	Vrc Ord	Position	Hrc /Wk	2020 Comp \$	2021 Comp \$	Chan
<u>Church</u>	Members	Pastor	115 Oru	POSITION	HIS/ WK	(*below minim		Chan
						(- pelow minim	<u> </u>	
Bethpage/Arumd. EM	100	E. Kim	14	IP	30		66,00	0
Brentwood		I. Rosario	8		20	19,759		
Brentwood PIPH		M. Fernandez		CRE	20	14,630		
Brookhaven		G. Johnson	8		10	9,776		
Cutchoque		R. King		CRE	20	26,346	<u> </u>	
Deer Park		D. Carter	26		30	77,240	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
Elmont	41	S. Austin-Barrow		EPSP	16	,	26,88	
Gt. Neck Faith Korean	52	S. Shin	23	Р	40	79,746		
Greenlawn	50	A. Van Cleef	17	TSP	16	31,200	* 31,20	0.0
Hempstead	94	Vacant						
Malverne	52	J. Moore-Caputo	7	TSP	20	36,036	* 32,76	0 * -9.
Malverne IEPNV	30	A. Madrigal	16	TSP	20	23,460	* 23,46	0.0
New Hyde Park Korean	30	J. Choi	20	Р	20	27,750	30,00	0 8.
Port Jefferson	145	R. Graugh	30	Р	40	89,096	89,09	6 0.0
Roosevelt	654	S. Williams	8	Р	40	125,000	125,00	0.0
Roslyn	30	M. Roth	10	TSP	30	59,878	62,27	3 4.0
Selden	32	Vacant						
Setauket	461	K. Jones Calone	9	IP	40	108,000	108,00	0.0
Shelter Island	79	S. Adkison	24	Р	30		45,37	0
South. Shinnecock	83	Vacant						
West Isliip		K. Riddle		CRE	20		34,38	
Yaphank	39	G. Johnson	8	TSP	10	7,630	* 7,63	0.0
Positions: P = Pasto	r. ΔP = Δs	sociate Pastor. IP	= Interim	Pastor, I	DP = Des	 gnated Pastor.		
TSP = Temporary S								
EPSP = Extended P			c r ustor	, cite – c		l late		
		•						
Hrs/Wk are the num	ber of hou	rs per week a past	or is calle	d to work				
A Housing Allowance	Church is	a church that is no	ot providir	l ng a mans	se for its	pastor.		
A Housing Anowance	- Cital Cil 13	a charen that is in	Piovidii	.g a mans	2 101 163	pustoi i	H	

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY The Presbytery of Long Island

2020-2021 Compensation Report Summary

Last year, 2020, the pandemic was new and was presenting unprecedented challenges to our churches and pastors. We decided it was not a good time to try to collect compensation information in the way we usually had in the past. This year, 2021, it seems important to try to report on the information for both years, since its approval is required by the *Book of Order*. Also, the information can be instructive for churches planning compensation for the future. This report looks at the status of the churches in the Presbytery as of early November, 2021, as best we know it. It includes changes in terms of call for installed pastors. It also includes the compensation for all pastoral service in all the churches of the Presbytery. Membership of the churches, the years since ordination of the pastors, and the number of hours per week they are called to work have also been included. Two installed pastors did not report their compensation.

Currently there are 53 churches in the Presbytery. 20 are served by installed Pastors, 24 by Pastors defined as temporary by the *Book of Order* and/or Presbytery policy, and 3 by Commissioned Ruling Elders. There is 1 installed Associate Pastor. 5 pastoral positions are vacant. 25 of the positions are full-time; 24 are part-time. The compensation of 15 pastors is below the Presbytery minimum. 4 of those are installed; the rest are in temporary positions.

For 2021 compensation is included for 21 pastors in full-time positions living in manses. The amounts reported for them are their cash salary, including their manse allowance, plus their tax-deferred investment. It does <u>not</u> include the value of the manse they are living in and, therefore, should not be compared with national statistics for effective salary. For these pastors the mean is \$63,837, and the median is \$63,417. These figures are 7.7% and 5.1% higher respectively than in 2019.

Also for 2021, compensation is included for 4 pastors in full-time positions receiving housing allowances, so small a number that comparisons are meaningless.

Between 2020 and 2021, by far the most churches (22) were unable to give any increase at all to their pastors. Eliminating large negative outliers, the mean increase was 1.38% and the median was 0.0%. The Presbytery made no recommendation for an increase in 2021.

It is encouraging that, in spite of all the challenges of the pandemic, our churches have been able to find creative new ways to worship, to continue their many and varied mission involvements, and to pay their pastors fairly. The high cost of living on Long Island continues to be a major factor, as well as the downward national trends of church viability.

At its meeting of December 14, 2021

Information

- Conversation on zoom or in-person COM meetings was decided that the COM meetings from January through March would be via Zoom and then be reconsidered.
- MSP To dismiss the Commission that installed the Rev. Rachel Vione as Pastor of to the First Presbyterian Church of Northport on November 16, 2021.
- MSP To accept the resignation of Rev. Ron Wood from the COM
- MSP Transfer Rev. Ron Wood to Lackawanna Presbytery PA as of 2/26/2022
- MSP As per Elmonts request the Rev. Dr. James Barnum will contuine to Moderate the Elmont Session.
- Lowell Simpson reported that the Merrick Session re-elected Thomas Rose as treasurer 2022 against the COM suggestion. He reminded the COM that Mr. Rose has been disruptive within the Merrick church.
 MSPTo direct Elder Simpson to inform Merrick's Session that re-electing Mr. Rose as treasurer was improper.
 Elder Simpson was further directed to tell the Session If the Session objected to that decision, the Session has the right to bring that objection to the COM at its January 2022 meeting.

The Committee approved the renewal of the Temporary Supply Pastor contract between the Session of the **Brentwood Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Ida Rosario** for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, at the following terms (half-time, or 20 hours/week): Cash Salary, 0; Housing Allowance, \$15,259; Tax-Deferred Investment, 6,000; Pension and Medical Dues, NA; Additional Insurance, NA; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 1,167; Automobile Expense Reimbursement, church business mileage at IRS standard rate; Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, 250; Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement, 750; Vacation, 30 days, including 5 Sundays; Continuing Education Time, 14 days, including 2 Sundays; Maternity Leave. NA; Moving Expenses, NA. The terms are below presbytery minimum.

The Committee approved the renewal of the Interim Pastor contract between the Session of the **Setauket Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Kathryn Jones Calone** for the period January 1, 2022, through December 31, 2022, at the following terms (full-time): Cash Salary, \$3,000; Housing Allowance, 53,000; Tax-Deferred Investment \$55,240 (20,500 employee contribution + 34,740 employer); Pension and Medical Dues, Minister's Choice Plan, 11,124; Additional Insurance, Dental Insurance, PPO member and family, 1,752 + Supplemental Death Insurance, member, 50,000 - 51 = 1,803; SECA Tax Reimbursement, 4,284; Automobile Expense Reimbursement, church business mileage at IRS standard rate; Pastoral Ministry Expense Reimbursement, 800; Continuing Education Expense Reimbursement, 2,100; Vacation, 30 days, including 5 Sundays; Continuing Education Time, 14 days including 2 Sundays; Maternity Leave per presbytery guidelines; Moving Expenses, NA. Pastor is declining medical coverage. The amount that would have cost is being added to the tax-deferred investment.

Appendix D - p 18

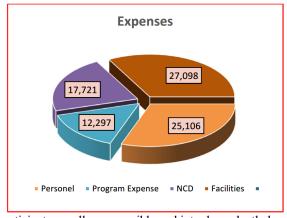


Treasurer's Report December 31, 2021

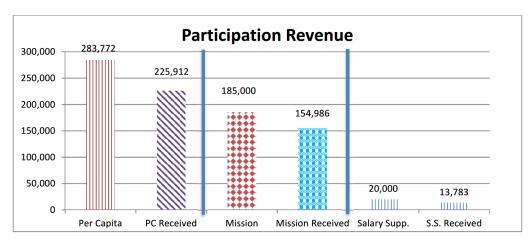
Income Expenses Cash Flow This Month 79,454.26 106,123.06 (26,699.10)

Year-To-Date 1,058,568.81 1,171,282.01 (112,713.20)





Per Capita is actually the opportunity for each of us to participate equally, responsibly and interdependently by sharing the cost of mission. It's the opportunity to share in our mission of performing ecclesiastical, legislative and judicial functions that identify a reformed church, and at the same time, strengthen the sense of community for all Presbyterians, bringing people together to discern the mind of Christ.



Per Capita Percent Achieved 79.61%
Mission Giving Percent Achieved 83.77%
Salary Supplement Percent Achieved 68.91%

This year has ended on a negative swing. All of our contributions are delinquent, and as such, we have finished 2021 in the red. It is imperative that 2022 begins better than 2021 ended, lest our Presbytery will suffer financial hardships. Please make every effort to participate in our contributions this year. Feel free to contact me via email me at: finance@presbyteryofli.org, if you have any questions or concerns.

Appendix D - p 19

First Reading of By-Law changes (to bring them into line with current realities)

1 CHAPTER III: OFFICERS OF THE PRESBYTERY

A. Moderator & Vice-Moderators

Moderators are elected for a term of 4 years and become one of the members of the Moderatorial Team. The first year of the term they are the First Vice Moderator, the second year of the term they are Second Vice Moderator, the third year they become the Moderator and the last year of the term they are the Moderator of the Shepherding Council.

add the sentence: Between meetings of the Presbytery, at the request of structures of the Presbytery and/or the General Presbyter/Stated Clerk, the moderators (Mod Squad) shall have authority to make all decisions on behalf of the Presbytery necessary to aid congregations and presbytery entities, except that the group shall not have the authority to approve either sale of real estate or dismissal of a congregation.

2 CHAPTER IV: ORGANIZATION OF THE PRESBYTERY

A. Shepherding Council

1. Membership

The Shepherding Council shall consist of the Moderator, the immediate past Moderator who shall be the Moderator of the Shepherding Council; the two Vice-Moderators, one person elected by the Salt and Light Team, five persons, (one each) from the Support and Facilitation Network, one of the Synod Commissioners, and one elder representative from Long Island Presbyterian Women. The Shepherding Council may also name a Co-Moderator, if it chooses. In addition, there shall be three members at large, divided into three classes. These at-large members shall be nominated by the standing Committee on Nominations of the Presbytery and elected by the Presbytery for three year terms, not to exceed two successive terms. The General Presbyter/Stated Clerk shall be ex-officio members without vote..

Replace with:

The Shepherding Councils shall consist of one each from NCD, Salt and Light, Committee on Ministry, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Trustees, all appointed by the moderators of those entities. As well as Moderator, the two Vice-Moderators, and the immediate past Moderator shall be the Moderator of the Shepherding Council. The General Presbyter and Stated Clerk shall be ex officio members without vote.

IV.C. 1. b. Nominations "Replace "6" with "3"

IV C.1, e. PJC Replace "9" with "7"

IV. 1 text add to : G-3.0301c/G-3.0303e in **bold:**

Between meetings of the Presbytery member congregations may request that: The Committee on Ministry exercises the Presbytery's G-2.01001 (commissioning elders), G-2.0805 (installation), G-2.0904 (dissolution), G-3.0107 (records), G-3.0108 (review), G-3.0301c/G-3.0303e (discord, acting as an administrative commission.)

IV. D. 1. Trustees Replace "9" with "7" and strike "divided in three equal classes"

Move the responsibilities of Stewardship to IV D 4 Budget and Finance

Appendix E - p 20

Report of The Presbytery of Long Island General Presbyter

The Standing Rules give me the "opportunity" to address this group each January. This year, your Advanced planning committee asked that I do something that dovetails into considering the Overture before us.

Have you noticed as you watched the news or read the newspaper? How all the hot button issues we read and hear about are addressed in our Christian Bible? I mean all the talk about climate challenges – the Lord is apparent in the creation story; we, humans, are the stewards of the earth.

Care for the less fortunate is a personal duty required of believers explicit in both testaments.

And the Scripture is absolutely consistent in admonishing we followers to care for the stranger, or as Scripture sometimes calls them "the alien" From Exodus "Do not mistreat the alien" to the Matthew 25 "I was a stranger, and you brought me in" Over and over, our faith calls upon us to treat those not quite like us with special care.

The Overture we are looking at this morning is a step in that direction. In 2018, the GA repudiated the Doctrine of Discovery, a document issued by the Vatican back in the 15th Century. In taking that action, the General Assembly attempted to apologize to Native Americans for using that awful doctrine. For over the years, the Presbyterian Church had used the doctrine to put down Native Americans.... precisely the opposite of what our Scriptures instruct us Christians to do.

Sadly our Presbyterian ancestors (especially south of the Mason Dixon line)" proof texted" our Scriptures to justify slavery and active discrimination of enslaved Africans and their children. The Overture before us asks the 2022 Assembly to apologize to African Americans for that unChristian behavior.

Of course, other races and cultures have experienced discrimination upon coming to the United States, but the Presbyterian Church was not persecuting Asians and Middle Eastern refugees. Our Scripture and denominational policy statements indeed call us to care for all God's children. Those Scriptures are what drives the denomination's Refugee programs

But whether or not this group decides to approve the Overture today, I call upon us to think.

How will the Presbyterians, 150 years from today, see how we treat people different from us?

Will they feel the anxiety that prompted this Overture regarding the behavior of our Presbyterian ancestors?

Will they send in an Overture to apologize for the way we have treated the alien and stranger in our midst?