

STATED MEETING

12 MAY 2020

PRESBYTERY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
Meeting by Zoom

The stated meeting of the Presbytery of New Brunswick was held on 12 May 2020 by Zoom conference.

ROLL

To be supplied for the permanent minutes.

The presbytery was called to order with prayer at 6:30 pm.

The stated clerk reported that a quorum was present.

The stated clerk reminded the presbytery that we were meeting remotely under the rules from the 11th edition of *Robert's Rules of Order*, which specify that, for a remote meeting to be legitimate, every attendee must be able to see and hear every other attendee and that each and every attendee must be able to address the whole assembly.

WE GATHER IN WORSHIP

The presbytery took the pleasure of worship together. The reverend Larissa Kwong Abazzia led the presbytery in worship with words from Acts 17:22-31. The presbytery engaged in a Word Cloud exercise. The presbytery was distributed into breakout rooms to ask and answer the question: what does congregational health look like these days It was also asked what stood out to people from the Word Cloud exercise. Worship was concluded with words from the poem "Blessed Are You Who Bear the Light

WE GATHER IN FELLOWSHIP

The stated clerk determined that we had a quorum.

The docket was presented.

Welcome

Worship

Consent Agenda

General Assembly Update

Report of the Central Leadership Team

Report of the Trustees

New Jersey Missional Structures Working Group Update

Grants Committee Report

Committee on Preparation for Ministry Report

Committee On Ministry

Examination of Nancy Nalepa-Skibo for ordination to a call at Somerset

Examination of Rory Chambers for ordination to a call at Dutch Neck

The docket was approved.

The consent agenda was presented.

CONSENT AGENDA

Committee on Ministry:

REPORTS:

1. Approved terms of call for Casey James Aldridge and Pennington Presbyterian Church.

Acting on behalf of presbytery on 5 May 2020 the Committee on Ministry approved terms of call for Casey James Aldridge and the Pennington Presbyterian Church, to be effective as of his start date in June.

Cash Salary	\$ 24,000
value of Manse	\$ 31,200
no Social Security offset	
no Benefits at this time	
Reimbursable expenses	\$ 2,500
total compensation	\$ 57,700

Mr Aldridge currently has major medical coverage. The Committee on Ministry will consult with him and the Pennington session when that ends.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

REPORTS:

1. Advanced Emily Arnold to candidacy.

On 4 May 2020, acting on behalf of the presbytery, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry examined Emily Arnold, an inquirer and a member of the Bound Brook

Presbyterian Church, and advanced her to candidacy for ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament.

Report of the Stated Clerk

RECOMMENDS:

- 1. That the presbytery approve the minutes of the 10 March 2020 meeting of the presbytery.**

It was requested that item 1 under the Committee on Ministry report be lifted. It was scheduled under the Committee on Ministry report later in the meeting.

The Consent Agenda was approved as amended.

WE GATHER to CARRY OUT the WORK of the CHURCH

REPORT of the CENTRAL LEADERSHIP TEAM

Elder Gooitzen van der Wal then reported for the Central Leadership Team.

-COVID-19 Update:

- weekly zoom calls for pastors and congregational leaders continuing - thanks to Sharyl Dixon (Kingston, Committee on Ministry Chair) and Cherry Oakley (Westminster Trenton, Moderator) for facilitating.
- joint worship services creation - thanks to Sharyl Dixon (Kingston, Committee on Ministry Chair) for overall coordinating, and to all who participated and shared their gifts
- Pandemic Response Conversation Group - meeting weekly on Monday mornings at 9am, consisting of county resourcing reps, leaders of Grants, Urban Mission Network Committee, & Social Witness, with Moderators and Transitional leader

- Grants updates - since last presbytery meeting:

PDA/PMA for Emergency/Matthew 25 Grants submitted to assist:

Witherspoon St., Princeton

Dayton

CAFE para el Alma New Worshipping Community

First Presbyterian, Milford

Westminster Trenton
Arabic Evangelical New Worshipping Community
Iglesia Presbiteriana Nueva Vida

Grants received to date:

Milford - \$2500

Westminster - \$2500

Iglesia Presbiteriana Nueva Vida - \$2500

Arabic New Worshipping Community - \$2500

CAFE para el Alma New Worshipping Community - \$7500

PDA Short/Long-Term Recovery Grant to benefit presbytery - \$25,000: Create an ongoing presbytery network between local and regional congregational & community crisis/disaster/emergency resources.

- Central Leadership Team Initiatives:

Vital Congregations:

- National conference to take place, either in person or virtually, Sept. 21-25 in Austin. Everyone encouraged to take part; more information to be provided as soon as available.
- Timeline of initiative to be shared at June meeting, along with other documents for Session consideration as congregations learn more about initiative and make determination about participating.
- Next month at presbytery: update from national staff.

Matthew 25: we are now at seven congregations in our presbytery! One more (20% of our congregations) and we can act to become a Matthew 25 presbytery.

Milford

Ewing/Covenant

Westminster Trenton

Witherspoon Princeton

Flemington

Bound Brook

New Brunswick

- Synod Update, May 3, 2020: The Rev. Dr. Harold Delhagen completed his tenure at the Synod on May 1. Notes of gratitude and appreciation may be sent to him at hdelhagen@gmail.com. A position description and search team will be approved by the commission, and updates will be provided. Rev. Nancy Talbot will continue as acting Synod Leader until a new Transitional Synod Leader is appointed.

Motion: That the presbytery ratify the action of the Central Leadership Team to extend the contract of the reverend Bob Tomlinson for two months.

This will extend the contract until the end of August. The Central Leadership Team acted because the deadline to extend the contract or not fell in a period when the presbytery was not meeting.

It was asked that terms of call be exhibited even for contract extensions so that the presbytery can see the information when it is called upon to vote.

The motion passed.

REPORT of the TRUSTEES

Treasurer Linda Gilmore reported for the Trustees.

The Trustees applied for and received a loan under the Payroll Protection Act for \$29,827. It is expected that the entire loan can be used for purposes that will enable the loan to be forgiven.

Guidance for churches and non-profits receiving Payroll Protection Act loans will be coming out and the trustees will see that it is published to the presbytery.

The treasurer presented the March financial report. There were no questions.

REPORT of the GRANTS COMMITTEE

The reverend Jim Pruner reported for the Grants Committee.

Presbytery of New Brunswick Grants

The Presbytery of New Brunswick has Grant Money available as part of its Mission Minded Ministry.

There is a Grant Process to help Presbytery Churches and Organizations carry out meaningful programs. If you have in mind a new, creative ministry or if there is an urgent need that needs funding, the Grant process of the Presbytery could be helpful.

How Things Work

Presbytery entities seeking a Grant from the Presbytery can contact the Presbytery office to obtain a Grant Application Form. The Presbytery Office will send out the Grant Form to the Requester and the Presbytery Office will follow up if any help is needed in completing the form.

The completed form can then be returned to the Presbytery Office. The Grant Committee will formally consider the Grant at its next scheduled meeting.

The Grant Committee will normally meet on the first Wednesdays of January, April, June, September and December. Grant Application deadlines will be the 15th of the month prior to the Grant Committee meetings.

Throughout the process the Grants Committee has some criteria in mind as to what kinds of Grants would create the most impact:

- Grant applications should show how the grants would help the church.
- Grant Applications should show how the Grant would help the community. In other words, how is this going to help people outside the church?
- Grant Applications should show how the individual church is forming partnerships with other churches and entities.
- Grants should be a way to help congregations and entities to take more initiatives into areas the congregation or entity would not be able to go without the Grant
- Grants should enable Grantees to become more creative and imaginative
- Grantees should be able to explain how the Grant will help the Grantee focus on their community and develop partnerships within and outside the church.
- Grants should be helping churches and entities see a bigger picture (beyond just themselves).
- Grants should help Presbytery entities form partnerships with other groups in the Presbytery.

Begin with discussing your idea with members of your own congregation or Presbytery group by looking for ways to enhance your ministry and be a blessing to others.

Grant Award Recipients

Westminster Foundation

Camp Johnsonburg

Kingston Presbyterian Church Haiti Mission Trip

Leadership Training Events

Princeton Presbyterians – Princeton University Campus Ministry

Arabic Evangelical Presbyterian Church

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church Lunch and Learn Program

R.O.A.M. (Regional Older Adults Ministry)

C.A.F.E.

Lawrenceville Job Training Partnership

Bloomfield College

Trenton Area Campus Ministry

Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministry

Witherspoon Street Church Ghana Mission Trip

Triennium

REPORT of the COMMITTEE on PREPARATION for MINISTRY

The reverend Doug Cornelius reported for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

The committee has two new co-chairs, the reverend James Klotz and the reverend Len Scales.

The committee has been used to occasionally having remote interviews, so it has adapted to meeting remotely without significant difficulty.

The committee has a concern about how to do due diligence concerning the financial health of candidates for ordination without crossing privacy boundaries. It is working on a resolution.

The committee currently has 26 inquirers and candidates under care.

REPORT of the NEW JERSEY MISSIONAL STRUCTURES WORKING GROUP

The reverend Larissa Kwong Abazzia reported on the work of the New Jersey Missional Structures Working Group by showing a video that had been prepared about their work. A link to the video will be posted on the presbytery website.

REPORT of the COMMITTEE on MINISTRY

The reverend Sharyl Dixon reported for the Committee on Ministry.

1. Motion: The Committee on Ministry recommends that the presbytery sustain the examination for ordination of Nancy Nalepa-Skibo; and approve her call to serve as part-time transitional pastor of the Somerset Presbyterian Church; and approve her terms of call.

Ms Nalepa-Skibo is a candidate for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament certified ready to receive a call under the care of the Presbytery of Elizabeth. She attended Kean College in New Jersey and is a Certified Public Accountant. She took her M Div at Princeton Theological Seminary.

Terms of call:

for 20 hours a week	
cash salary	\$ 11,000
housing allowance	\$ 16,205
403b contribution	\$ 10,035
professional expense/ travel allowance	\$ 1,425
Continuing education	\$ 855
total compensation	\$ 39,520

Ms Nalepa-Skibo read her statement of faith and the presbytery questioned her on it and on her faith journey to this time and place. After sufficient time the examination was arrested and Ms Nalepa-Skibo was excused.

The presbytery discussed Ms Nalepa-Skibo's answers and the Committee on Ministry's rationale for this call.

The motion was passed.

Ms Nalepa-Skibo was welcomed back into the room and warmly congratulated. The presbytery offered prayer for her ministry at Somerset.

The Committee on Ministry then took up the item that was lifted from the Consent Agenda. The questions was raised why so many part-time calls have lately not included any form of medical and health insurance. In all cases so far they have had healthcare and medical insurance and not needed coverage from the Board of Pensions. Concern was expressed for access to benefits for part-time pastors.

1. Motion: The Committee on Ministry recommends that the presbytery sustain the examination for ordination of Rory Chambers; and approve his call to serve as part-time Stated Supply Associate Pastor for Youth and Community Ministry of the Dutch Neck Presbyterian Church; and approve his terms of call.

Mr Chambers is a candidate for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament certified ready to receive a call (March 2020) under the care of the Presbytery of New York. An Australian citizen, he attended Box Hill Institute and the University of Melbourne. He is an M Div student at Princeton Theological Seminary and will graduate this May.

Terms of Call:

for half-time	
cash salary	\$ 0
housing allowance	\$ 36,000
social security offset	\$ 2,754
benefits	
Board of Pensions	
pension	\$ 3,960
death & disability	\$ 360
professional expenses	\$ 3,000

Mr Chambers read his statement of faith and was questioned on it and on his faith journey by the presbytery. After sufficient time for questions Mr Chambers was excused.

The motion was passed.

Mr Chambers was welcomed back to the room and warmly congratulated. Reverend La Montagne offered prayer for his ministry at Dutch Neck.

ADJOURNMENT

The presbytery adjourned with prayer and a video expressing the passing of the peace in time of pandemic at 9:17 pm.

respectfully submitted
D. Paul La Montagne
Stated Clerk