

Report of the Synod Assembly
Synod of the Northeast
October 21-22, 2011

The Synod Assembly of the Synod of the Northeast conducted the following business:

1. Ruling Elder Judith Babcock (Rhode Island) was installed as Moderator of the Synod Assembly. The installation service was a joy-filled event.
2. The Synod Council reported the early retirement of Ruling Elder Mary Lynne Flowers as of December 31, 2011. She will be on a leave of absence until January 1, 2013.
3. The Synod Council reported the hiring of the Rev. Harold Delhagen as Transitional Leader for the Synod of the Northeast. Harold comes to us from the Reformed Church of America, is a graduate of New Brunswick Theological Seminary (M. Div) and McCormick Theological Seminary (D. Min) and has extensive experience leading Middle Governing Bodies through a time of discernment, restructure and implementation. He has a three-year contract with the Synod. A Transitional Team will be formed to work with Harold in developing a new mission and vision for the Synod of the Northeast.
4. Three overtures received by the Synod Council concerning the restructure of the Synod were referred to the Transitional Leader and Team for their consideration.
5. We were informed that the Mid-Council Commission (formerly the General Assembly Middle Governing Body Administrative Commission) was preparing their report that will go to the GA in 2012 for their consideration. The report would recommend moving the ecclesiastical function of the synod to five regional bodies, which would create space for missional partnerships between presbyteries. The synods would have to **create and implement a transition plan** to transfer assets, funds, projects and programs including those that relate to racial ethnic ministries to appropriate entities and submit for approval this transition plan to the 222nd (2016) General Assembly. Synods *can* remain just as they are without ecclesiastical functions. If their presbyteries decide they want to continue as they are, they simply design a decision making group and provide funding for it to oversee whatever missional activities they desire, including staff if they wish to provide financial resources to do so.
6. The Assembly elected Rev. Kathlyn Ruth Nealand (Long Island) as moderator-elect. She will be installed as moderator at the October 2012 Synod Assembly.
7. The Synod approved a per capita rate for 2012 of \$3.95 and for 2013 for budget purposes \$3.95.
8. The Advisory/Present, Monitor and Report Teams presented their report to the Assembly for their consideration. Following the report the Synod Council presented recommendations for the approval of the Assembly. They are as follows:
 - a. **The motion was made and approved that the PMR group be dismissed with thanks and that the active members of the Advisory Team and a few other people appointed by the Moderator of the Synod continue to work with the Presbytery of New York City.**

- b. The motion was made and approved that the Moderator of the Synod appoint two people to assist in the process of preparation to elect a Stated Clerk in the Presbytery of NYC and those people will serve in this role through the end of 2012.**
 - c. The motion was made and approved that the Synod Assembly not establish an Administrative Commission at this time.**
9. The Assembly approved a number of changes to the bylaws. One change was the movement from beginning and ending terms upon the convening of the Synod Assembly to beginning and ending based on the calendar year. Starting with the Class of 2014, their term will begin January 1, 2012 and end December 31, 2014.
 10. The Synod Assembly approved three resolutions. Bulletin inserts are available on the Synod website. The resolutions are as follows:
 - a. “Economic Justice in These Troubled Times” a result of the marches on Wall Street.
 - b. Resolution -To support PCUSA efforts in South Sudan toward a just and sustainable human development through educational means in solidarity with their hope for a global future.
 - c. Motion by ruling elder Rick Ufford-Chase for a working group on water. A Working Group is being formed and each PPG is asked have at least one representative to serve on the team.

The Work of the Metro NY Presbytery Partnership Group (PPG) for 2011

1. We welcomed new commissioners and two YAADs (Young Adult Advisory Delegates) from NYC and Hudson River.
2. We wrote and reviewed an “Overview of the Metro NY PPG” document for future use by conveners and new commissioners.
3. We appointed Marcel Welty (NYC) to represent the Metro NY PPG on the New York State Council of Churches
4. We referred the names of Rev. Anna Taylor Sweringen (NYC), Elder Nancy Neal (NYC) and Rev. Peggy Rowland (HR) to the Public Policy Advocacy Network (PPAN) to represent the Metro NY PPG.
5. We approved the following proposals:
 - a. Youth Ministry at Stony Point PC in Hudson River - \$3,000 Block Grants
 - b. Rural Migrant Ministry proposal from Hudson River - \$7,000 Block Grants and \$3,000 Ministry Support
 - c. Youth Mission Trip to Maine from Long Island - \$3,000 from Block Grants
 - d. Coaching Proposal submitted by NYC to support sending clergy to the Davison Center - \$5,000 Ministry Support
 - e. Lombard Mennonite Peace Center process in NYC, Second Year - \$6,000 Ministry Support
 - f. Professional Coaching program in Hudson River - \$5,000 Ministry Support
 - g. Rehabilitation Through the Arts in Hudson River - \$10,000 from Block Grants

- h. New York State Council of Churches Chaplaincy Program - \$3,000 Block Grants and \$3,000 Ministry Support
 - i. NYC General Council retreat to discuss their mission and vision for the presbytery and work of the sub-committee working on The Project - \$3,000 from Block Grants
6. Teaching Elder David Mason (HR) elected Convener and Scribe for a one-year term. Teaching Elder Perry Wooten (NYC) elected co-convener for a one-year term.
 7. Gave thanks to those whose terms as Synod Commissioners end as soon as their presbyteries can elect their replacement for the Class of 2014. This change affects all three presbyteries.
 8. The next meeting of the Metro NY PPG is in February. Any new proposals for our consideration should be submitted to the Synod office by February 1, 2012.

Other Business

1. The Synod commissioners for the Presbytery of Long Island appoint Ruling Elder Herb Adler to represent the Synod on the Shepherding Council for 2012.

Respectfully submitted,

Teaching Elder Kathlyn R. Nealand

Teaching Elder Jim Barnum

Ruling Elder Herb Adler

And the member of the Metro NY PPG