

Warrant

for an

Administrative Commission

of The Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey concerning
the New Milford Presbyterian Church, New Milford, NJ

November 20 2021

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven:

a time to be born, and a time to die;

a time to plant and a time to pluck up what is planted.

Ecclesiastes 3: 1-2

Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life.

Those who believe in me, though they die, will live;

and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die.

John 11: 25-26

A commission is empowered to consider and conclude matters referred to it by a governing body. The appointing body shall state specifically the scope of power given to a commission. A commission shall keep a full record of its proceedings, which shall be submitted to its governing body to be incorporated in its minutes and to be regarded as the actions of the governing body itself. (G-3.0109b)

The decision of an administrative commission shall be the action of the appointing governing body from the time of its completion by the commission and the announcement, where relevant, of the action to parties affected by it. Such decision shall be transmitted in writing to the stated clerk of the governing body, who shall report it to the governing body at its next meeting. A governing body may rescind or amend an action of an administrative commission in the same way actions of the governing body may be modified. (G-3.0109b)

Beginning in 1949 when a group of 20 people met plan for the establishment of a church in New Milford a faithful ministry under the Word has served the community in New Milford for over 70 years. Initially meeting in the Steuben school and erecting a church at its current location on River road the Church sought to become a place for their community. The church grew throughout the 1950's both physically, adding a Christian education wing and a pipe organ, and in terms of ministry launching a men's club and calling a new pastor.

Throughout the 1960 the ministry continued to focus on community providing welcome for refugees from Cuba, and organizing a blood bank. By the middle of the decade the church had grown to over 300 families. In the 70's the congregation established a scholarship fund for educational assistance.

In the 1990's renovations were completed to allow the congregation to serve its community through a day care center. The congregation has also been proud of its long standing relationship and hosting of a local boy scout troop.

By the late 2010's with the retirement of their pastor, the aging congregation has discerned that they are tired, and in the process of meeting with the COM liaisons the session has requested an AC be formed to help them dissolve their church in such a way as to maintain their legacy of caring for and welcoming their community.

The COM of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey therefore requests that the Presbytery, at its Stated Meeting on November 20, 2021, create and empower an Administrative Commission. This Administrative Commission shall have the power to conclude the following actions:

1. To dissolve New Milford Presbyterian Church.
2. To provide for the continuing spiritual and pastoral care of the remaining members of the New Milford Presbyterian Church.
3. To help as requested by the members to identify a new home where they might transfer their membership en-masse and continue an intercessory prayer group, participate in youth group and presbyterian women, and facilitating ways to continue certain ministries under other structures. While the ministry of New Milford Presbyterian Church in this form is coming to an end, God is not through with these disciples and they understand their faith journey to still be interconnected. The nature of this connection and path forward will require ongoing discernment.
4. To transfer members of New Milford Presbyterian Church to other congregations and to provide for pastoral care for those who do not wish to, or are unable to transfer their membership.
5. To grant letters of dismissal to members for those who have not found a new church after a period of one year.
6. To take possession of all real and personal property of New Milford presbyterian church along with financial records and inventories of equipment and to oversee transfer of all real property and accounts to the Presbytery and ultimately if practicable create a community mission center under the auspices of the presbyteries community mission team.
7. To ensure that bills are paid, the property is maintained and secured and adequate insurance coverage is in place. In addition the AC shall work with the groups currently using the facility, including the daycare center and they boy scouts, to insure that their vital work is cared for.
8. To consult with the Session or its representatives regarding requests the congregation may have relating to the disposition of equipment, memorials and other property, honoring them where possible and to retain such for future use at the discretion of the Presbytery.

9. To take the original jurisdiction of the Session at such time as they stop meeting.
10. To assert the claim of the Presbytery to any property of the New Milford Presbyterian Church congregation not known at this time or property which may come as beneficiary of a will or trust not known at this time.
11. To assert that the New Milford Presbyterian Church property remains a vital asset to the ministry of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey and to hold prayer services on the property.
12. To discern, in consultation with the COM, and the community ministry team, the future use of the real property and in the event that the decision is to sell the property, to carry out that sale. If it is the determination of the AC in consultation as above to subdivide the Manse from the Church Property in order to sell one or the other or both, such subdivision and sale shall be authorized under this warrant.
13. To determine uses for the various funds of New Milford Presbyterian Church, which honor the ministry and legacy of New Milford Presbyterian Church and build up the ministry and witness of the PC(USA.)
14. To transfer to the Stated Clerk for forwarding to Presbyterian Historical Society all official records of the congregation. Other historical records shall be transferred to the stated clerk for storage or transfer to PHS at their direction.
15. To complete any additional tasks necessary to close the corporation of the church.
16. To see that the ministry and faithful history of the New Milford Presbyterian Church are suitably celebrated in a service of worship.

In undertaking these actions, the Administrative Commission shall be sensitive to the memory, heritage, and concerns of the members of the New Milford Presbyterian Church.

The Administrative Commission shall invite at least one representative of the New Milford Presbyterian Church to participate in its work with voice but without vote.

Membership in this Administrative Commission shall be by appointment of the Convener of the COM, in consultation with the acting stated clerk. It shall include at least 3 members and appointments shall be announced at the next stated meeting of the Presbytery.

This Administrative Commission shall report its actions to a future Stated Meeting of the Presbytery. They shall provide the Presbytery with interim reports semi-annually and their warrant shall conclude with the completion of the above delegated tasks.

Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey
Rev. Jeremy Campbell, Stated Clerk of Presbytery