

# Warrant

for an

## Administrative Commission

of The Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey concerning  
the Calvin Presbyterian Church, Linden, 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)

The Calvin Presbyterian Church in the Tremley Point section of Linden has served the Slovak diaspora in the broader New Jersey region for over 100 years. At one time yoked with a chapel in Perth Amboy as well it has provided for the religious as well as the cultural needs of that community. Originally an independent reformed church Calvin and its pastor united with the PC(USA) in the late 1960's and have been faithful partners of the presbytery throughout that time providing members for committees and recently the Moderator of the presbytery.

Tremley was a community of immigrants a century ago and the congregation largely reflected its neighborhood. Over time families maintained a strong connection with the church as the neighborhood changed to more recent immigrants. The church has maintained the cultural traditions and language worshiping in Slovak until very recently. The church continued faithfully ministering as the only protestant church in that neighborhood of Linden.

As the Slovak community has dispersed throughout the country the Members of Calvin church have continually sought to remain a support to one another, and to serve their Trembley Point neighbors. Most recently during the COVID-19 Pandemic they have formed a strong intercessory prayer group which they hope will continue. The session has realized that they no longer have the critical mass to maintain a Church on their own, and have requested that the Presbytery form an AC which will help them find a church in which they can continue their intercessory prayer circle, find support for their youth and continue their spiritual journey together, while also find a way to maintain their former building as a mission outpost serving the current residents of Trembley Point.

Through out its history Calvin understood its facilities as God's House where anyone with needs can come and be served. They have made the faithful decision to seek a way to continue that tradition in partnership with others so that a new generation of Trembley Point residents may come to know God's love on that sacred ground.

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 Calvin Presbyterian Church.
2. To provide for the continuing spiritual and pastoral care of the remaining members of the Calvin 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 Calvin 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 Calvin 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 Calvin 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 to the church where the members nest for use as a mission outpost under the guidance of that session or 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, if any, 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 Calvin 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 Calvin 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, the nesting congregation's session, 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.
13. To determine uses for the various funds of Calvin Presbyterian Church if they can not pass to a nesting church, which honor the ministry and legacy of Calvin 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 Calvin 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 Calvin Presbyterian Church.

The Administrative Commission shall invite at least one representative of the Calvin 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 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