

*If you have any questions about this report, please contact Chairperson,
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**Commission on Ministry Report to Presbytery
Presbytery of Northeast New Jersey
February 15, 2022**

A. Motions for Presbytery from Commission on Ministry (COM)

None

B. Actions taken by the Transitions Team (Convener Madelynne Lindsey)

1. **Central Presbyterian, Elmwood Presbyterian and Elmwood West** voted to merge. The Central building was offered for sale and a buyer was secured. This was ratified by the Presbytery of Newark. Subsequently and Administrative Commission determined that the model was not sustainable. There is a lawsuit pending.
2. **Bethany Bloomfield** – They are looking for a part-time interim. The team is encouraging the committee to search for a full-time interim since they intend to hire a full-time pastor.
5. **Rahway** – Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook dissolved her relationship with Rahway PC and has accepted a calling at Hackettstown PC.
6. **Mountainside** – An AC is in place. They are working to elect a PNC.
7. **Wallington** – An interim is needed. CRE Betty Fetzer is Moderating Session. COM Liaison is working with the congregation on next steps re: Leadership
8. **Taiwanese Congregation** - Seeking an interim.
9. **Connecticut Farms** – Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith Honorably Retired January 31, 2022
10. **St. Paul's**.- The relationship with Pastor Gomes was **APPROVED** for a six-month extension.
11. **Springfield** – PNC in the process of considering a candidate for Designated Pastor's position.
12. **Bethany Plainfield** – Liaisons will be meeting with leadership in February.
15. **West New York – Iglesia Presbiteriana Methodista** – The Methodist are leaving this relationship. Jeremy Campbell spoke with the District Superintendent who is requesting that the remaining congregation pay the arrears for pension and utility bills.
16. **Caldwell** – Jeremy Campbell met with the liaison regarding the need for a Mission Study.
17. **Cranford -First Presbyterian Church** – PNC is in place.
18. **Osceola** - Liaison met with the session regarding a mission statement. Members of the Commission will meet with session.
19. **Wyoming Millburn** – Rev. Heather Brannon is seeking leads to hire a part-time Office Assistant and a part-time Bookkeeper.

20. **First Hispanic** – Jeremey Campbell reported that First Hispanic has an installed pastor from the **Reformed Church and Church of the Savior** has a Stated Supply.

C. Terms of Call

1. Commission **APPROVED** Central Montclair Presbyterian Church following Call Terms of Call for Peter Wilkinson as Interim Minister, effective March 1, 2022.

Effective Salary

- a. Cash Salary - \$65,000
- b. Manse Value – 28,000
- c. Medical savings Acct. 6,000
- d. Effective Salary 99,000
- e. Pen/Med @ 37% 36,630
- f. Car Allowance 600
- g. Cont. Ed. 2000

TOTAL \$138,230

2. The team **APPROVED** the Terms of Call for Rev. Diane Curtis effective salary of \$67,712 as sufficient (rather than \$69,900) because of the \$1,200 in line F representing an employer contribution to Diane’s 403b. However, the vacation should read 4 weeks + 2 days including 5 Sundays. The Professional Reimbursement should be \$3,000 and the Continuing Education \$1,800.

D. Actions taken by the Administration Team (Convener Rev. Mike Capron)

1. Maintain Pulpit Supply List – The team decided that Ministers of word and Sacrament, as well as persons who have served as Commissioned Pastors may be added without further check. For other Ruling Elders, they will ask their pastor and also for some other secondary reference before adding them. The Team agreed that Mike Capron could handle the process and there was no need to vote on individual names.

2. Interface with Commissioned Pastors – The team met with CPM and Rev. Victor Aloyo to discuss the work he has done with other presbyteries and bring a written description of how he is willing to lead a group to help our presbytery train and serve Commissioned Pastors.

3. The team discussed that some of the challenges faced by Commissioned Pastors are financial, especially in the realm of health insurance. Student debt can also be a problem. The Board of Pensions is helpful at answering questions in both English and Spanish.

4. the Team recommends that it would be helpful to remind people in the Presbytery about the Board of Pensions more often than every other year at a presbytery meeting.

5. **Boundary Training** – The team is looking into some alternative plans for individuals who were not able to attend the last Boundary Training.

6. **Validated Ministry** - Discussion and review of the policy .

E. Membership Team (Convener Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith)

- Dismiss Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook to Highlands Presbytery to take a new call.
- Dismiss Rev. Caroline Unzaga to Highlands Presbytery to take a new call.
- Grant Rev. Roberta Arrowsmith the status of Honorably Retired at of Jan. 31, 2022.

F. Other Business

Everyone entering ministry needs to complete Vocational counseling/psychological evaluation and background check. There is a need to expand those proving Vocational Counseling/Psychological evaluations to supplement diversity and competency. There will eventually be a need to do background checks on all members of the new presbytery for our insurance and to redo them every 3 years going forward.

Jeremy Campbell and Madelynn Lindsey have been meeting with liaisons to talk about all the information they have gathered from their assigned congregations.