

**Special Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ**
Via ZOOM

7PM, Thursday, July 11th, 2024
*(to be approved at the 6th Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ)*

The Body of Christ, A Call to Gather

The Presbytery of Highlands of NJ of the Presbyterian Church (USA) held a Special Meeting on July 11th, 2024, on the ZOOM platform.

Moderator Sue Cail, Ruling Elder, called the meeting to order at 7:01 PM, and then offered the opening prayer.

FORMATION OF THE ROLL

The roll was formed as Commissioners signed the registration forms. Stated Clerk, Rev. Dr. Steven Shussett, certified that a quorum was present.

REPORT OF THE ATTENDANCE CLERK

<u>Congregation</u>	<u>Teaching Elder</u>		<u>Ruling Elder</u>	
Allamuchy, Panther Valley	Rev. James Vespoli	A		A
Alpha	Rev. Scott DeCaro	A		A
Andover	Vacant	V	Sandra Wozniak	P
Basking Ridge (3)	Rev. Dennis Jones	A		A
	Rev. Dr. Maureen Paterson	A		A
				A
Bedminster, Lamington	Vacant	V		A
Belvidere	Rev. Dr. Pamela Szurek	A		A
Blairstown (2)	Rev. David Harvey	P		A
				A
Boonton (2)	Rev. Carie Morgan	P	Meg Meyer	P
				A
Bound Brook (3)	Rev. Linda Owens	A	Betsy Reimer	P
				A
				A
Branchville	Rev. Dr. Nancy Young	E		A
	Rev. David Young	E		
Califon, Fairmount	Rev. Mike Atzert	A		A
Califon, Lower Valley	Rev. Tex Culton (HR)	E		A
Cedar Knolls, Hildale Park	Rev. Ross Lang	P		A
Chatham Township (2)	Vacant	V		A
	Rev. Thomas Brown	A		A
Chatham, Ogden Memorial	Rev. Kathi Heath	E		A
Chester	Rev. Christopher Scrivens	A	Jeanne Perry	P
Clinton (2)	Rev. Tracey Henry	P		A
				A

Delaware	Vacant	V		A
Delaware, 1st Oxford	Vacant	V		A
Denville, Union Hill	Rev. Timothy Clarkson	A		A
Dover, First Memorial	Rev. Alan Schaefer (HR)	E		A
East Hanover	Vacant	V		A
East Hanover, Kitchell	Rev. Hannah Allred	A		A
Flanders (2)	Rev. Cliff Acklam	A		A A
Flemington (3)	Rev. Amy Lincoln	A		A A A
Florham Park, Calvary	Rev. Ronald de Groot	A		A
Franklin (2)	Rev. Julie Raffety	P	Connie Cholminski	P A
Frenchtown (2)	Rev. Merideth Mueller-Bolton	A		A A
Gillette, Meyersville	Rev. Stefanie Muntzel	A		A
Hackettstown	Rev. Erin Hayes-Cook	A		A
Hampton, Musconetcong Valley	Stephanie Farley, CRE	A		A
Hillsborough, TAFPC	Vacant	V		A
Lambertville (2)	Vacant	V		A A
Lambertville, 2nd English	Vacant	V		A
Long Valley	Vacant	V		A
Long Valley, Highlands	Rev. Robin Burton Palmer	A		A
Madison	Vacant	V	Becky Moody	P
Mendham	Rev. Scot McCachren	A		A
Milford	Rev. Dr. Linda Erkert-Bullock	A		A
Milford, Alexandria (2)	Rev. Nicholas Hatch	A		A A
Milford, Holland Bible	Rev. Geoff Stanley	A		A
Mine Hill	Vacant	V	Jane Smith	P
Morris Plains	Rev. Donald Brown	A	Susan Vigilante	P
Morristown (3)	Rev. Daniel Vigilante Rev. Audrey Webber	A A		A A A
New Vernon	Rev. William Stone	A		A
Newton	Rev. Heather Morrison Yaden	P		A
Newton, Yellow Frame	Rev. Michael Nelms	A		A
Oak Ridge	Rev. Dr. Christopher Doyle	A		A
Ogdensburg	Rev. Alden Johnson	A		A
Parsippany	Rev. Donald Bragg	A		A
Phillipsburg, Harmony	Rev. Scott Bohr	A		A
Phillipsburg, Pilgrim	Rev. Richard Gelson	A		A
Pittstown, Bethlehem	Rev. Linda Gaden	A		A
Pluckemin (2)	Rev. Ian Rankine	A		A A
Port Murray, Rockport	Rev. Robert “Bronc” Radak (HR)	E		A
Ringoes, 1st Amwell	Vacant	V		A

Ringoes, Kirkpatrick (2)	Rev. Dr. Barbara Booth-Jarmon	P		A A
Ringwood	Rev. Arlene Romaine	A		A
Rockaway (2)	Rev. Ryon Herin	P		A A
Somerset (2)	Rev. Nancy Nalepa-Skibo	A		A A
Sparta	Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo	A		A
Stanhope	Peter Magnan	P	Gloria Newson	P
Stewartsville	Rev. Stephen Choi	A		A
Stewartsville, Old Greenwich	Rev. Mary Beth Mardis-Lecroy	A		A
Stirling	Rev. Stefanie Muntzel	A		A
Stockton	Rev. David Snyder	A		A
Succasunna (2)	Rev. Timothy Clarkson	A		A A
Sussex	Rev. Katherine Scott-Kirschner	P		A
Titusville	Vacant	V		A
Wantage, Beemerville	Rev. Barry Young	A		A
Warren, Trinity United	Rev. Amy Sandlin	A		A
Washington	Rev. James Scovell	A		A
West Milford (2)	Rev. Dr. Christopher Doyle	A		A A
Wharton	Rev. Sarah Green	A		A
Wharton, Berkshire Valley	Vacant	V		A
Wharton, Hungarian	Vacant	V	Steve Lance	P
Whippany	Rev. Sarah Cairatti	A		A

Teaching Elders Engaged in a Validated Ministry

Rev. Joanne Miller	A
Rev. Robin Miller Curras (<i>serving church out of bounds</i>)	A
Rev. Christine Davies	P
Rev. Jennifer Hrynyk	A
Rev. John C. Kile	A
Rev. Jeanne Radak (<i>Presbytery Leader – Highlands Presbytery</i>)	E
Rev. Chad Rodgers (<i>Director of Activities - Johnsonburg Camp & Retreat Center</i>)	A
Rev. Salvatore Seirmarco (<i>Chaplain – United Methodist Communities</i>)	A
Rev. Dr. Steven Shussett, Stated Clerk (<i>Highlands Presbytery</i>)	P
Rev. Christopher Small (<i>Chaplain – Hunterdon Healthcare Systems</i>)	A
Rev. Angella Son (<i>Professor – Drew University</i>)	A
Rev. Caroline Unzaga	A

Members at Large

Rev. M. Elizabeth Blythe	E
Rev. Justin Choi	E
Rev. Dr. Ellen Clemot	A
Rev. Courtney Cromie	A
Rev. Dan Dorrow	A
Rev. Jin Hee Han	A
Rev. Ryan Irmer	A

Rev. Caroline Jinkins	A
Rev. Donna McDaid	A
Rev. Hayley O'Connor	A
Rev. Gail Pendleton	A
Rev. Annie Tsai	A

Honorably Retired

Rev. Peter Amerman	E
Rev. Janice Ammon	E
Rev. Jeff Archer	E
Rev. Nancy Asbury	E
Rev. Barbara Aspinall	E
Rev. Charles Baier	E
Rev. Joicy Becker-Richards	E
Rev. Robert Beringer	E
Rev. George Blank	E
Rev. Sally Campbell	E
Rev. Robert Colman	E
Rev. Cynthia Crouner	E
Rev. William Culton	E
Rev. James D'Angelo	E
Rev. William Davis	E
Rev. Judith Dean	E
Rev. Richard Dole	E
Rev. Birda Ferguson	E
Rev. Guy Ferguson	E
Rev. Dr. Janet Fishburn	E
Rev. Benhardt Fraumann	E
Rev. Mervin Fry	E
Rev. Peter Gregory	E
Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Hall	E
Rev. Dr. Edward Halldorson	E
Rev. David Hengerer	E
Rev. Dr. Jefferson Hatch	E
Rev. Kathryn Henry	E
Rev. Jean Holmes	E
Rev. Herbert Huffmon	E
Rev. Harold Johnson	E
Rev. Eugenia Johnston	E
Rev. Philip Jones	E
Rev. Steven Kengeter	E
Rev. Heup Young Kim	E
Rev. Dr. David Lawrence	E
Rev. Unzu Lee	E
Rev. Tony MacNaughton	E
Rev. Fred Milligan	E
Rev. James Morris	E
Rev. Elizabeth Morrison	E
Rev. Szabolcs Nagy	E
Rev. Chet Penza	E
Rev. Barbara Peters	E

Rev. John Potter	P
Rev. Donald Prytherch	P
Rev. Bronc Radak (<i>serving Rockport</i>)	E
Rev. Jack Roan	E
Rev. Stephen Ross	E
Rev. Lorrie Rowland-Skinner	E
Rev. Diane Ruffle	E
Rev. Alan Schaefer (<i>serving Dover</i>)	E
Rev. Bruce Schundler	E
Rev. Donald Scott	E
Rev. Sherman Skinner	E
Rev. Sarah Taylor	E
Rev. Charles Thompson	E
Rev. Alfred Tisdale	E
Rev. Jacquelyn Van Vliet	P
Rev. John Verser	E
Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White	E
Rev. David Young	E
Rev. Dr. Nancy Young	E

Ruling Elders by Virtue of Office

Sue Cail, Community Presbyterian Church of Ringwood, Moderator	P
John Crozier, First Presbyterian Church of Boonton, COM Co-Moderator	P
Alan Ford, Bethlehem Presbyterian Church, Pittstown, Past Moderator	P
Alec Jain, Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains, ACT Member	P
Joe Martinoni, First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway, Past Moderator	P
Mel Prestamo, Long Valley Presbyterian Church, Past Moderator	P
Donna Rahmann, Fairmount Presbyterian Church, Califon, CPM Co-Moderator	P
Pete Peterson, Clinton Presbyterian Church, ACT Co-Moderator	P

Others in Attendance

Sonja Gaertner, Office Manager & Attendance Clerk, Presbytery of the Highlands	P
Cris Bream, First Presbyterian Church of Stanhope	P
Barbara Costanza, First Presbyterian Church of Stanhope	P
Brian Davenport, First Presbyterian Church of Stanhope	P
Pamela Osborne, Candidate for Ordination/Installation	P

Total in Attendance – 37

~ Sonja Gaertner, Attendance Clerk – The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ

MOTION: The Committee on Ministry has requested this Called Meeting of the Presbytery of The Highlands of New Jersey for the purpose of examining Pamela Osborne, for ordination to the ministry of Word and Sacrament, for the purpose of serving as Shared Pastor at the Andover Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Stanhope.

COM Co-Moderator Jacqui Van Vliet introduced Pamela to the Presbytery, and after re-stating the motion, invited Pamela to share her biography. The floor was then opened for questions to the candidate.

Following a series of questions from the assembled, it was MOVED, SECONDED, AND CARRIED to suspend the examination. Pamela was dismissed to a waiting room as discussion was invited.

Representatives from the two Sessions were invited to speak on behalf of Pamela, and they expressed support for her and in commendation of her gifts.

Returning to the motion, it was CARRIED to approve the ordination of Candidate Pamela Osborne, and to place her on the rolls of the Presbytery.

Prayers for Pamela and the congregation were offered.

There being no other business, it was VOTED to adjourn.

The Moderator offered a benediction

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Attested: _____
Steven H. Shussett, Stated Clerk

Bio – Pamela Osborne

Pam Osborne grew up in Presbyterian churches. Weeks were busy with helping her grandmother arrange the flowers, attending worship, going to Sunday School or youth group, setting up potlucks, watching her mom type up the Session minutes, serving as a youth Deacon, singing in choirs, and so much more. Church has always been at the center of Pam's life and the place she has felt most called to use her gifts.

Pam was raised in Montclair NJ. She graduated from Montclair High School and went on to Ithaca College, graduating with BA in Sociology. She then earned her MSW from Rutgers University, with a concentration in Health and Medicine. She has worked in nursing homes and rehabilitation centers as a social worker. She has done freelance writing about children's health issues.

Alongside education and work, Pam has remained an active member at Central Presbyterian Church in Montclair, NJ where she was confirmed. She has served several terms on Session as a ruling elder, chaired committees, led programs, and been part of choirs, small groups, and mission projects. Pam has felt called to professional ministry since childhood. She seriously considered seminary after college, and again shortly into her social work career. Five years ago, after a time of discernment, Pam realized that she could no longer walk away from this sense of call, and ultimately enrolled in Union Theological Seminary in New York City, where she earned her MDiv in 2022. During seminary, field education, and a subsequent CPE unit at Morristown Medical Center, Pam continued to explore her sense of call and her pastoral gifts.

Pam lives in Verona, NJ with her husband, Scott. Their daughter is studying elementary education at Boston College. Pam enjoys hiking, mystery novels, trying new recipes, and playing board games with her family.

Statement of Faith – Pamela Osborne

I believe in the Trinity of God, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit, who exist as one God.

I believe that God who created the universe in the beginning continues to create and sustain life today. I believe that God created humanity to love and be loved by God, to be stewards of Earth's bounty, and with gifts to care for one another. God seeks to be in relationship with us, a grace to which we respond with our lives.

Humanity is sinful: prone to turning away from God's abundant love. In our human brokenness we do not use our gifts and resources wisely. We reject the image of God in others and ignore God's call to care for all living things. We fall out of right relationship with God. Yet God has remained faithful throughout the ages.

I believe in Jesus Christ who, both human and divine, came to earth to teach and be in relationship with a people gone astray. Jesus came so that humanity could learn through him how to be God's people. Through scripture, and through his presence in the bread and cup, we remain connected to Christ's message to love God and love our neighbor unconditionally.

I believe that the events of Jesus' suffering, death on the cross, and resurrection invite us through repentance to turn from our sinful ways and return to right relationship with God, again and again.

I believe that scripture - the inspired word of God - is central to our ever-deepening understanding of God, helping us recognize what God desires of us. I believe that through the movement of the Holy Spirit and the gift of human intellect we continue to grow in understanding of what these words mean for us in each present context. Scripture, when combined with the powerful mystery of prayer, helps us discern God's will and to hear God speaking.

I believe in the power of the Holy Spirit, present in creation, abundantly revealed at Pentecost, and moving in and among us today. The Spirit guides our understanding of scripture, comforts us in times of trouble, is present and active in prayer and nudges us towards God's will.

Coming upon us in baptism and present in communion as we are nourished by Christ's presence at the table, the Holy Spirit is integral to the sacraments. Through water, wine and bread the church is connected to Christ and to one another throughout space and time.

I believe that the church universal is God's vehicle for fostering, spreading, and putting the gospel into action. In worship, the people of the church are fed, nurtured, and connected through the Word of God in order to be sent back out into a broken and needy world. The church is called to nurture its members, care for the hurting within and outside its walls, and spread the good news of Jesus Christ through word and deed.

The church works and waits, knowing that Christ will come again. Until that time, we are called to continue to act in love, work for justice, pray without ceasing, and do our part to be God's hands and feet, even as we pray that God's will is "done on earth as it is in heaven."

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

For the purpose of examining a Candidate for Ordination

Thursday, July 11, 2024

7:00 pm

Agenda for the Special Meeting of The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ

Online ZOOM Meeting

Thursday, July 11th, 2024 at 7pm Presbytery

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Introductory Items

Quorum

Enrollment of Corresponding Members

Adoption of Agenda

The Committee on Ministry has requested this Special Meeting of The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey for the purpose of examining Pamela Osborne for ordination, for the purpose of service as Shared Pastor at the Andover Presbyterian Church and the First Presbyterian Church of Stanhope.

Examination

Prayer

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

There will be no fellowship time on Zoom following the close of the meeting.