

**Special Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey**
Via ZOOM

7:30PM, Thursday, October 10th, 2024
*(to be approved at the 18th Stated Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey)*

The Body of Christ, A Call to Gather

The Presbytery of Highlands of New Jersey of the Presbyterian Church (USA) held a Special Meeting on October 10th, 2024, on the ZOOM platform.

Moderator Chad Rodgers, Teaching Elder, called the meeting to order at 7:32 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	Pamela Osborne	P		A
Basking Ridge (3)	Rev. Dennis Jones	A		A
	Rev. Dr. Maureen Paterson	P		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	A	Meg Meyer	P A
Bound Brook (3)	Rev. Linda Owens	A	Kathy Hobbs Betsy Reimer	P P A
Branchville	Rev. Dr. Nancy Young	A		A
	Rev. David Young	P		
Califon, Fairmount	Rev. Mike Atzert	A		A
Califon, Lower Valley	Rev. Tex Culton	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		A
Clinton (2)	Rev. Tracey Henry	A		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	P		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		A A
Frenchtown (2)	Vacant	V		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	Rev. Eric Lai	A		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	P	Scott Riker	P
Madison	Rev. Carol Howard	A		A
Mendham	Rev. Scot McCachren	A	Van Buchanan	P
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		A
Morris Plains	Rev. Donald Brown	A	Sue Vigilante	P
Morristown (3)	Rev. Daniel Vigilante Rev. Audrey Webber	A A	Craig Barth	P A A
New Vernon	Rev. William Stone	A		A
Newton	Rev. Heather Morrison Yaden	A		A
Newton, Yellow Frame	Rev. Michael Nelms	A		A

Oak Ridge	Rev. Dr. Christopher Doyle	P		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	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	A		A A
Somerset (2)	Rev. Nancy Nalepa-Skibo	A		A A
Sparta	Rev. Dr. Patrick Sileo	A		A
Stanhope	Pamela Osborne	P		A
Stewartsville	Rev. Stephen Choi	E		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	P		A A
Wharton	Rev. Sarah Green	A		A
Wharton, Berkshire Valley	Vacant	V		A
Wharton, Hungarian	Vacant	V	Stephen Lance	P
Whippany	Rev. Sarah Cairatti	P	Tim Lee	P

Teaching Elders Engaged in a Validated Ministry

Rev. Joanne Miller	E
Rev. Robin Miller Curras (<i>serving church out of bounds</i>)	A
Rev. Christine Davies	A
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>)	P
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	A
Rev. Dr. Ellen Clemot	E
Rev. Courtney Cromie	A
Rev. Dan Dorrow	A
Rev. Jin Hee Han	A
Rev. Ryan Irmer	A
Rev. Donna McDaid	A
Rev. Peter Magnan	P
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. 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. Barbara Peters	E
Rev. John Potter	E
Rev. Donald Prytherch	E
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	E
Rev. John Verser	E
Rev. Deirdre Greenwood White	E
Rev. David Young	P
Rev. Dr. Nancy Young	E

Ruling Elders by Virtue of Office

Elder Joe Martinoni, First Presbyterian Church of Rockaway, Past Moderator	P
Elder Pete Peterson, Clinton Presbyterian Church, ACT Co-Moderator	P
Elder Alec Jain, Presbyterian Church of Morris Plains, ACT Member	P

Others in Attendance

Sonja Gaertner, Office Manager & Attendance Clerk, Presbytery of the Highlands	P
Benjamin Willans, First Presbyterian Church of Whippany, Inquirer	P

Total in Attendance – 29

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

MOTION: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry has requested this Special Meeting of the Presbytery of The Highlands of New Jersey for the purpose of examining Benjamin Willans, for progression from Inquirer to Candidate while under care of the Presbytery.

Moderator Chad Rodgers (Teaching Elder) introduced Committee on Preparation for Ministry member Rev. Chris Doyle, who in turn introduced Ben to the Presbytery. After re-stating the motion, Chad invited Ben to share his biography.

Chris was invited to speak on behalf of Ben, and he expressed support for him and in commendation of his gifts. 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. Ben was dismissed to a waiting room as discussion was invited.

Returning to the motion, it was CARRIED to approve moving Ben Willans from Inquirer to Candidate.

Prayers for Ben were offered.

There being no other business, it was VOTED to adjourn at 7:57PM.

The Moderator offered a benediction

The meeting adjourned at 7:41 pm.

Attested: _____
Steven H. Shussett, Stated Clerk

Bio – Benjamin D. Willans

Ben Willans is a third-year Master of Divinity student at Princeton Theological Seminary who completed a round of CPE education under the direction of Dr. Jacob George in Anchorage Alaska. Before this, he was a high school history teacher for three years and holds a master's in education from Rutgers University. Alongside his studies, Ben serves as the chaplain of the Whippany Fire Department in Whippany, New Jersey, a contract chaplain with Ann Klein Forensic Center (where he had previously worked and studied chaplaincy as an intern), a pastoral care intern for the Presbyterian Church of Lawrenceville and is an active player on the Morris Men's Rugby team. He is particularly interested in Pastoral Care studies and is spending his last year at Princeton Theological Seminary focusing on such. Following graduation in May, Ben hopes to continue his CPE studies to become a board-certified chaplain and faithfully serve the community he finds himself in.

SPECIAL CALLED MEETING

For the purpose of examining an Inquirer
to become a Candidate under care of the Presbytery

Thursday, October 10, 2024

7:30 pm

**Agenda for the Special Meeting of
The Presbytery of the Highlands of NJ**
Online ZOOM Meeting
Thursday, October 10th, 2024 at 7:30pm

Call to Order and Opening Prayer

Introductory Items

Quorum

Enrollment of Corresponding Members

Adoption of Agenda

The Committee on Preparation for Ministry has requested this Special Meeting of The Presbytery of the Highlands of New Jersey for the purpose of examining Ben Willans for candidacy under care of the Presbytery.

Examination

Prayer

Adjournment and Closing Prayer

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