

Presbytery of the Highlands
Stated Meeting
September 9, 2025
Final Report of the Administrative Commission
for the First Presbyterian Church of Hanover,
East Hanover

Items for Consent Agenda:

None.

Items for Report:

AC-1

An Administrative Commission was established to walk alongside the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Hanover, East Hanover in 2020. The AC, chaired by the Rev. Sarah Cairatti and served faithfully by Richard Kaller, Carol Corea, and the Rev. Timothy Clarkson, attended the Session Meetings of the church. Reviewing membership, possibilities, and finances, over time, that discernment process revealed the church was not sustainable.

Following a congregational meeting, the final worship service at the church was held on June 9, 2024. Since that time, the AC and Presbytery have explored options for the property. Ultimately, and with many thanks to Presbytery attorney, Tania Nameth, the sale of the property closed on August 25, 2025, with Township of East Hanover purchasing the church, cemetery, parish house building and parking lot, and manse for \$2,500,000.00. The Township assumes responsibility for the cemetery and plans to create a much needed Senior Center on the property where the church house office building has been. This repurposed space will remain a center of the neighborhood, nurturing and serving the needs of the community for generations.

AC-2

The AC is grateful to the Presbytery, the Session and congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hanover, East Hanover, the Rev. Tom Brown

(who served as moderator of the Session for many years), Tania Nameth, and the Township for sharing this process together faithfully.

Respectfully Submitted, Rev. Sarah Cairatti and the Members of the Administrative Commission

Items for Action:

Acknowledging the responsibility of being stewards of the legacy of this congregation of over three hundred years in ministry, and given the status of the church and the property at this time, the AC respectfully recommends to the Presbytery that:

AC-3

The remaining amount from the proceeds of the sale of the property, after accounting for expenses and revenues (\$2,314,618), be allocated in accordance with recommendations from the Budget and Finance Committee and ACT as follows:

- a. Presbytery Mission and Ministry Fund: \$1,500,000.00
- b. Mission Opportunities in the East Hanover Area:
 - i. Homeless Solutions: \$80,000.00
 - ii. Interfaith Food Pantry: \$20,000.00
 - iii. Nourish NJ \$10,000.00
 - iv. Winds of the Spirit \$10,000.00
- c. The Presbytery Cemetery Fund: \$20,000.00
- d. The Presbytery Capital Loan Fund: \$20,000.00
- e. The remaining \$654,618 will be set aside to establish a fund that supports initiatives fostering new life and creative ministries within the presbytery's congregations. The Innovation Team and the ACT will work together to develop this fund.

AC-4

The congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Hanover, East Hanover, be dissolved; and

AC-5

With its assigned mission completed, the Administrative Commission be dissolved.