



Presbytery of Genesee Valley

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IMPORTANT: PLEASE READ

Dear Members and Commissioners:

You have received notice of a **special meeting of the Presbytery on Tuesday, June 20, 2017**. The meeting is called to hear reports and take action on the recommendations of the Committee on Ministry and the Board of Trustees. These actions are both important and time-sensitive, which is the reason the Special Meeting has been called by the Presbytery Council.

For the Committee on Ministry, we will examine Candidate Rebecca Chaffee for membership, and approval of terms of call and installation as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church, Caledonia, New York. We will approve an Administrative Commission to install the Rev. Nicholas Dorland as pastor of First Presbyterian Brockport, and express our thanks to Anne Martin for her service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder at First Presbyterian Church, Livonia Center.

For the Board of Trustees, we will be asked to approve three actions concerning the property of congregations:

Sale of two small parcels of land for Barre Center Presbyterian Church

Approval of an easement to the City of Batavia for the First Presbyterian Church of Batavia

Sale of the Church Building and Property for New Life Presbyterian Church, Rochester

As such, the Trustees Report attached to the Docket is lengthy, including a rationale from the Session of New Life. **Please take ample time to read this report in full, as it addresses many questions you may have.**

We look forward to seeing you at LeRoy. Since we are meeting in June, we will not be meeting in July. Thanks for your participation!

Grace and peace,

Amy Williams Fowler

****Note: Pre-Meeting – “The Things That Make for Peace” – pre-meeting facilitated by Susan Orr and Elaine Johnson, 5-6 p.m., feel free to bring a bag supper, if you like.***

THE REV. AMY WILLIAMS FOWLER
Presbytery Leader

BETH WEAVER
Office Administrator

THE REV. FRANK Y. ICHISHITA
Executive Presbyter Emeritus

ELDER SUSAN B. ORR
Presbyter for Healthier Congregations/Stated Clerk

CHERYL BATTAGLIA
Financial & Program Administrator



**Presbytery of Genesee Valley
STATED MEETING
June 20, 2017 – 6:30pm
First Presbyterian Church of LeRoy
7 Clay Street, LeRoy, NY 14482**



Elder Hezekiah Simmons, *Moderator*
Rev. Sue Thaine, *Moderator-Elect*
Elder Susan Orr, *Stated Clerk*
Elder Bob Mecredy, *Treasurer*

MAILED DOCKET



SPECIAL SUMMER MEETING!

- 4:30 - ON-SITE SIGN IN OPENS
- 5:00 - PRE-MEETING BEGINS
- 6:30 - BUSINESS MEETING TO BEGIN PROMPTLY
- 7:45 - ADJOURNMENT!

We'll see you at our next meeting

September 26, 2017 at the First Presbyterian Church of Chili

- **New Commissioners:** Please contact Cheryl Battaglia (programsecretary@pbygenval.org or 242-0080) in the Presbytery Office to request a name badge and a *Welcome to Presbytery* resource booklet.
- **Resource Center:** The Resource Center comes to you at every Presbytery meeting. Please visit the display and check out all the great resources available for borrowing!
- **Minutes** of previous Presbytery meetings are available on the web site at www.pbygenval.org/documents. They will be mailed to presbyters who do not have e-mail access.
- **Attendance:** Since ministers and elder commissioners are required to attend presbytery meetings, presbyters who do not request excuses will be marked absent. Corrections to attendance from previous meetings will be made in the permanent record.

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To avoid distraction, please silence your cell phone when you are in the meeting. Thanks!

"Know Christ, Live Christ, Share Christ"



**First Presbyterian Church of LeRoy
7 Clay Street
LeRoy, NY 14482**

Directions

From the northeast and the north:

From I-390 or I-590: Take I-390 south to I-490 west. Then follow the instructions below.

From I-490: Take I-490 west to NY 19 (Exit 1/LeRoy). Take NY 19 south. The church is just under four and a half miles from the exit, at the corner of Clay Street (NY 5) and NY 19.

From NY 19: Take NY 19 south to NY 5 (Clay Street). The church is at the corner of NY 5 (Clay Street) and NY 19.

From the east or west:

From I-90: Take I-90 (Thruway) I-490 (Exit 47). Take I-490 east to the NY 19 (Exit 1/LeRoy) exit. The church is just under four and a half miles from the exit, at the corner of Clay Street (NY 5) and NY 19.

From NY 5: Take NY 5 to NY 19 in LeRoy. The church is at the corner of NY 5 (Clay Street) and NY 19.

From the south:

From NY 19: Take NY 19 north to NY 5 (Clay Street). The church is at the corner of NY 5 (Clay Street) and NY 19.

From I-390: Take I-390 north to NY 20 and NY 5 (exit 10/Avon). Turn west and continue on NY 5 to LeRoy. The church is at the corner of NY 5 (Clay Street) and NY 19.



MAILED DOCKET

For the Meeting of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Tuesday, June 20, 2017

LeRoy Presbyterian Church

Special Meeting

LeRoy, New York

Page ReferenceMailed Taken

6:30 PM		Announcements <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Greetings from the Host Church</i> 	David Pepper
		Call to Order and Opening Prayer Introductory Business <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Approval of Docket</i> ▪ <i>Appointment of Tellers</i> ▪ <i>Greeting New Commissioners</i> ▪ <i>Enrollment of Corresponding Members</i> ▪ <i>Privilege of the Floor</i> 	Hezekiah Simmons
6:40 PM	4-8	Committee on Ministry <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Examine Rebecca Chaffee for Membership and Approval of Terms of Call and Installation for First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia, NY</i> ▪ <i>Approval of the Administrative Commission for the Installation of the Rev. Nicholas Dorland as Pastor of First Presbyteriana Church, Brockport, NY</i> ▪ <i>Celebration of CRE Anne Martin's Ministry with First Presbyterian Church of Livonia Center</i> 	Melissa DeRosia
7:10 PM	9-18	Trustees Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Approval for Sale of Two Parcels of Property for the Barre Center Presbyterian Church</i> ▪ <i>Approval of Easement of Property for First Presbyterian Church of Batavia, NY</i> ▪ <i>Approval of Sale of Church Building and Property of New Life Presbyterian Church of Rochester, NY</i> 	Barbara James
		Council Report Adjournment with Prayer	Brandi Wooten

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT for June 20, 2017
First Presbyterian Church, LeRoy, NY
 [Meetings of 5/2/2017 & 6/6/17]

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

(Caledonia First / Candidate Rebecca Chaffee)

1. **Approve**, if the way be clear, the call of the First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia, NY to candidate for ordination Rebecca Chaffee (under care of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery) as Pastor (full-time) effective July 1, 2017 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	\$34,300
Housing Allowance	<u>\$13,200</u>
Effective Salary	\$47,500

Social Security Offset	\$ 3,634
Benefits Plan PC(USA)	\$16,836
Cont Ed/Study	\$ 800
Travel/Expenses	\$ 4,716

Annual Leave and Vacation Time: 30 days including 5 Sundays; 2 wks study leave.

Sick leave 1 day/mo. cumulative. Guidelines of EEO/AA were attempted.

The congregational meeting was held on April 2, 2017 and was moderated by Rev. William Schram.

The congregation elected Elders Steve Russ-Clar and Amy Burt to appear during the June 20, 2017 meeting of the presbytery and attest to the congregation meeting and the call of Candidate Chaffee.

2. **Enroll** Rev. Rebecca Chaffee as a member of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley upon completion of the service of ordination on Thursday, June 29, 2017 at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church in Dewitt, NY.
3. **Appoint** the following persons as the Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Rebecca Chaffee as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia, NY on July 9, 2017 at 3pm in the Church Sanctuary:
 - Moderator, Elder Hezekiah Simmons (Pittsford) or his designee
 - Rev. Laura Fry (Covington)
 - Rev. Amy Williams Fowler (Presbytery Leader)
 - Rev. Brandi Wooten (Chili First)
 - Elder Susan Orr (Laurelton)
 - Elder Steve Russ-Clar (Caledonia First)
4. **Dismiss** the Administrative Commission at the conclusion of the Service of Installation.
5. **Appoint** the Rev. Rebecca Chaffee as Moderator of the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Caledonia, NY effective upon installation.

(Brockport / Rev. Nicholas Dorland)

1. **Appoint** the following persons as the Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Nicholas Dorland as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Brockport, NY on Sunday, July 16, 2017 at 4pm in the Church Sanctuary:
 - Moderator, Elder Hezekiah Simmons (Pittsford) or his designee
 - Rev. Tom Gardner (Holley)
 - Rev. Aaron Neff (Corfu)
 - Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan (Webster)
 - Elder Mary Haverfield (Summerville)
 - Elder Don Welch (Holley)
 - Elder Diane Kruger (Brockport)
2. **Enroll** the following additional participants as Corresponding Members of the Administrative Commission:

Rev. Dr. Dan Griswold (Trinity Reformed Church, RCA)
 Elder Christopher Dorland (Lakeview Community Church; President of
 Rochester Classis, RCA)

3. **Dismiss** the Administrative Commission at the conclusion of the Service of Installation.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The Committee on Ministry **VOTED** to recommend that the presbytery:

(Honorable Retirement / Rev. James Widboom)

1. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to Rev. Jim Widboom, effective February 26, 2017. The retirement will be celebrated at the September 26, 2017 stated meeting of Presbytery.

(Celebration / CRE Anne Martin)

1. **Celebrate** the conclusion of service by CRE Anne Martin (Scottsville) to First Presbyterian Church, Livonia, NY effective May 28, 2017.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

Acting on behalf of the presbytery, the Committee **VOTED** to:

(Moderator Appointments)

1. **Appoint** Rev. Michelle Sumption as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Caledonia, NY effective immediately until ordination and installation of Candidate Rebecca Chaffee.
2. **Appoint** Rev. Amy Williams Fowler as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Caledonia, NY for their June 6, 2017 meeting.
3. **Appoint** Rev. Bob Kaiser as moderator for the congregational meeting of First Presbyterian Church, Caledonia, NY to be held on June 11, 2017.
4. **Appoint** Rev. Charles Roberts as moderator of the session of Parkminster Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY effective July 1, 2017.
5. **Appoint** Rev. Louise Armstrong as moderator for the congregational meeting of Brighton Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY to be held on July 16, 2017.

ACTIONS TO BE REPORTED TO PRESBYTERY AS INFORMATION

(Albion / Rev. Twyla Boyer)

1. **Approve** the Interim Covenant Agreement (80% time) between the session of Albion Presbyterian Church, Albion, NY and Rev. Twyla Boyer effective June 1, 2017 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	\$14,000
Housing Allowance	<u>\$22,000</u>
Effective Salary	\$36,000

Social Security Offset	\$ 2,754
Benefits Plan PC(USA)	\$15,100
Cont Ed/Study	\$ 800
Travel/Expenses	\$ 3,185

Annual Leave and Vacation Time: 30 days including 5 Sundays; 2 wks study leave
 Sick leave: 1 day/mo. cumulative

(New Life / Elder Katrina Hebb)

1. **Receive** the Job Description for Student Temporary Supply Pastor for New Life Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY.
2. **Approve** the Covenant Agreement for Temporary Student Supply Pastor (50% time) between the session of New Life Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY and Elder Katrina Hebb (Presbytery of Northern New York) effective May 9, 2017 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	\$13,604
Housing Allowance	\$ 4,737
Utilities	\$ 645
Effective Salary	\$18,986

Social Security Offset	\$ 1,452
Health Ins & Pension	\$ 2,256
Cont Ed/Study	\$ 400
Travel/Expenses	\$ 1,906

Annual Leave and Vacation Time: 30 days including 5 Sundays; 2 wks study leave
Sick leave: 1 day/mo. cumulative

(Pulpit Supply List)

- **Add** the following name(s) to the Pulpit Supply List:
 - Rev. James Widboom
 - Rev. Steven Becker

(Exit Interview / Caledonia First)

- **Approve** the report of the Exit Interview with the session conducted on May 9, 2017 conducted by Elder Betty Wells and Rev. Carin Farmer.

(Ministry Information Forms)

- **Approve** Interim Ministry Information Form of First Presbyterian Church, Pittsford, NY.

(Ordinations / Installations)

1. The ordination of Candidate Omar Rouchon was held on Sunday, May 28, 2017 with an additional member serving on the administrative commission: Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan
2. The installations of Co-Pastors, Rev. Dr. Lawrence De Vuyst and Rev. Dr. Eileen Borduin Vanderzwan was held on June 4, 2017 at Webster Presbyterian Church with two changes to the approved administrative commission: Elder Katrina Hebb (Northern New York) and Elder Sam Chung (Pittsford) did not participate; Elder Jim Tiefenthal (Downtown) was added.

Biographical Statement for Rebecca Chaffee

I was born into a military family and raised in various cities in the US, as well as 3 ½ years in a small English village. Family life revolved around regular worship in Baptist and Christian and Missionary Alliance churches. In high school I was active in youth group, school prayer band, and Young Life. My high school aptitude tests came back with “Pastor” as the first result, but my denomination did not ordain women.

I earned my BA in English at the C&MA seminary and liberal arts college in Nyack, New York. While there, I attended Grace Episcopal Church where I fell in love with the liturgy and sang in the choir. As a young adult I continued to explore faith through my own prayer and reading, but my profession as a “road warrior” for a Manhattan-based business meeting production company left little time for formal church involvement. I did notice, though, that I became something of a chaplain among my “spiritual but not religious” colleagues.

In the early 90s I joined First Presbyterian Church in Honesdale, Pennsylvania, where I sang in the choir, served as youth leader, and was ordained an elder. In 2002, my current husband, Scott, and I moved to Syracuse and joined First Presbyterian Church United. After our son, Conrad, was born we transferred to Pebble Hill, where I served in the nursery, education, and children’s music program before answering the call in 2009 as interim and then full-time Program Director for Education and Family Ministries.

I enrolled in Northeastern Seminary in fall 2012 for a Master of Divinity with a concentration in Spiritual Formation. I graduated in 2016, having studied at NES as well as taken courses at CRCDS, General Seminary, and UDTS (Dubuque). My work with children, my seminary work, and my own spiritual journey have confirmed my call to ministry. I have a special interest in spirituality and ministry to children, youth, and families as it is reframed in the 21st century, which has led me into a Doctor of Ministry program at University of Dubuque Theological Seminary called, “Forming Communities: Faith, Families, and the Future of Ministry,” co-taught by Carol Howard Merritt and Annette Huizenga. This May I will attend the 2nd of 3 years of 2-week residency in this program, which involves practical work in ministry combined with research and writing. My sense of vocation and calling to this ministry is not a personal goal or an interest: It is a direct response to God’s grace working within my life. I look forward to serving in my first ordained call at the Caledonia church and exploring local ministry opportunities with my colleagues in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley.

Rebecca Chaffee

Statement of Faith

God, our Creator, loves us unconditionally.

Christ, our Redeemer, lived as one of us and understands our limitations.

Spirit, our Sustainer, infuses our everyday lives with grace.

How blessed we are that the Trinitarian God –Father, Son and Spirit – cares for us.

The Bible shares with us direct encounters with God that generations of God’s children have experienced. In its pages I find a way of life that values love and justice, and that frames my own life and values. It provides light that illumines my way, drawing me closer to God.

The traditional creeds and confessions of the church speak through the many faithful witnesses who have worked together to preserve and hand down the faith through many cultural crises.

The body of Christ transcends any single denomination, nation, or culture.

We encounter God’s presence on a regular basis, through prayer, worship, word, and sacrament, through service to the least of these, through efforts to encourage peace, mercy, and justice in the world.

We faithfully respond to God’s grace in our lives when we nurture relationships both vertically with the divine and horizontally with humanity as we live our lives.

Faith is more than accepting a set of beliefs. Faith is a verb. It’s a way of life, a committed, faithful response to the graciousness of God we experience throughout life. It’s more about asking the right questions than offering the correct answers. It’s about balancing love and justice, mercy and responsibility. “In Essentials Unity, in Non-Essentials Liberty, In All Things Charity”
(Rupertus Meldenius, 1627)

Report of the Board of Trustees
Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Inc.

June 20, 2017

MOTIONS

Barre Center Presbyterian Church

(aka "The Barre Center Presbyterian Church of Barre")

That the Presbytery Board of Trustees recommends that the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Inc., authorize the **Barre Center Presbyterian Church (aka "The Barre Center Presbyterian Church of Barre") (the "Church")**, 4706 Oak Orchard Road, Albion, New York 14411, to sell and convey two (2) parcels of real property, being;

1. A 13.00 foot by 99.00 foot strip of land off of a parcel conveyed to the Church by Deed dated March 21, 1986, and recorded in the Orleans County Clerk's Office in Liber 418 of Deeds, page 46 (Tax Account No.: 95.3-1-15), known as the "Old Grange Property," in the Town of Barre, Orleans County, New York; and
2. A 14.00 foot by 115.50 foot strip of land off of a parcel conveyed to the Church by Deed dated July 26, 1966, and recorded in the Orleans County Clerk's Office in Liber 327 of Deeds, page 164 (Tax Account No.: 95.3-1-60.1), known as the "Church Property," in the Town of Barre, Orleans County, New York

to **James E. Nesbitt** for the sum of **Five Thousand Dollars (\$5,000.00)**, such sale to take place in accordance with a Purchase and Sale Contract between the parties last dated January 4, 2016, and approved by the Congregation of the Church at a Special Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation duly called and held May 24, 2017, the net proceeds of such sale to used first to pay for any expenses relating to the sale, with the balance to be deposited in the general fund of the Church.

This authorization shall be subject to approval of a Supreme Court Justice for the judicial district in which such property is located.

First Presbyterian Church of Batavia, New York

That the Presbytery Board of Trustees recommends that the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Inc., authorize the **First Presbyterian Church of Batavia, New York** a/k/a First United Presbyterian Church of Batavia, New York, 300 East Main Street, Batavia, New York 14020 (the "Church"), to enter into an **Agreement** with the **City of Batavia**, Genesee Street, New York (the "City"), providing for the conveyance by the Church of a **permanent easement** for sidewalk purposes, approximately 865 feet in area, adjacent to the east side of Liberty Street, to the City, being a portion of a parcel originally conveyed to the Church by Deed dated July 19, 1985, and recorded in the Genesee County Clerk's Office in Liber 86 of Deeds, page 113 (Tax Map No. 84.058-1-9), for the sum of \$2,800.00; provided that the City shall be responsible for obtaining any Court approvals which may be deemed to apply under New York State Law.

This approval is conditioned upon approval by the Church Congregation at a duly called meeting of the Congregation/Corporation.

[NOTE: This conveyance was approved by the Church Board of Trustees at a meeting held the 26th day of October, 2016]

New Life Presbyterian Church

(aka New Life Community Church: United Presbyterian)(“NLPC” or “Church”)

That the Presbytery Board of Trustees recommends that the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, Inc., authorize the **New Life Presbyterian Church, 243 Rosedale Street, Rochester, New York 14620**, to:

1. Sell to BROTHERHOOD OF CROSS AND STAR, USA (“BROTHERHOOD”), a District of Columbia not-for-profit corporation, the premises known as 1006 Monroe Avenue, in the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York (Tax Account Number 121.760-0001-079.000),, being the property improved by the church building and facilities, and being the same premises acquired by said Church by deeds dated:
 - a. May 22, 1895, recorded in the Monroe County Clerk's Office on May 27, 1895, in Liber 558 of Deeds, page 211;
 - b. December 2, 1903, recorded in the Monroe County Clerk's Office on December 2, 1903, in Liber 679 of Deeds, page 524; and
 - c. July 24, 1951, recorded in the Monroe County Clerk's Office on August 21, 1951, in Liber 2701 of Deeds, page 392;

(Note: original conveyances were to “The Mount Hor Presbyterian Church,” the name of which was changed to “New Life Community Church: United Presbyterian” by Amendment to the Certificate of Incorporation filed May 15, 1974, in the Monroe County Clerk's Office).

Such sale shall take place in accordance with a Purchase and Sale Agreement between the parties last dated May 26, 2017, subject to such modifications and additional provisions as may be negotiated between the NLPC Session and the Brotherhood (specifically with respect to lease back for purposes of the food cupboard and other Church purposes, and the disposition of certain tangible personal property), which Purchase and Sale Agreement provides for a sale price of \$369,000.00, with such contingencies, terms and conditions as are set forth in such Agreement and negotiated by Session.

This authorization shall be subject to approval by a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, as provided by law; and

2. Apply the net proceeds of the sale of such property, after payment of all necessary and customary closing costs, including attorney's fees and the expenses of procuring the Court Order, for the following purposes, in such amounts as may hereafter be approved by the Congregation:
 - A. Repayment of all outstanding indebtedness to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, currently in the amount of approximately \$35,000.00, which was advanced to NLPC as a line of credit from the Presbytery Revolving Loan Fund.
 - B. A gift of not less than \$30,000 to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, with the request that a substantial portion of such gift be dedicated to the redevelopment and transformation of congregations within the City of Rochester; and
 - C. Allocation of up to \$25,000 to benefit the Upper Monroe neighborhood, the specific uses of such funds to be approved by NLPC's Session and Congregation.
 - D. For the continuation and re-development of NLPC and its mission and ministry, and particularly with regard to joint development of covenant plan for blending of the South Presbyterian Church (SPA) and the NLPC congregations, with the assistance and support of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry, and approved by the respective congregations of NLPC and SPC; and
 - E. To supplement pledges and other sources of income of NLPC, and for the budgetary support of the covenant relationship with SPC, as referenced in Paragraph D above; and
 - F. For the lease of space in the Upper Monroe neighborhood to support the mission and ministry of New Life on Monroe, including location(s) for youth programming (e.g., Monroe Milers, VBS, vacation lunch, etc.), and other acts of faith as approved by the Session of NLPC; and/or
 - G. For the lease of suitable space in the Church Property, if the way be clear, for

continuation of the existing volunteer-run food-cupboard, or for the rental of space in an alternative location suitable for the food-cupboard; and

H. All remaining funds shall be applied as directed by the NLPC Session or as otherwise necessary for the future support New Life on Monroe, including the lease of programming, worship or storage space for New Life on Monroe.

3. Authorize the Trustee, Clerk of Session and the Ruling Elders of NLPC to take such actions, and to execute and deliver such documents, as shall be appropriate and necessary to effectuate the foregoing

[NOTE: *These actions were approved by the Congregation of the Church at a special meeting of the Congregation and Corporation held the 4th day of June, 2017, subject to the approval of Presbytery and the Supreme Court.*]

Rationale and Additional Information Provided by the Session of New Life

June 4, 2017

To the Board of Trustees and Presbytery of Genesee Valley,

The members of New Life Presbyterian Church respectfully request your faithful consideration and, if the way be clear, approval of the sale of New Life's property, as more specifically set forth in the enclosed Purchase & Sale Agreement and Motion.

Please note that while some of you may not have been previously aware of New Life's situation, this is not a decision or situation that was arrived at without careful consideration and discernment.

We start by asking, "What happens when economic problems catch up with a small church?" Indeed, "members of the New Life Community Church (formerly Mt. Hor Presbyterian) on Monroe Avenue are grappling with that question, trying to decide whether or not they should close down the church."

Moreover, "New Life, facing a new budget of just over \$30,000, projects an income this year of only \$18,000. It's easy enough to assume that if the congregation of

a church can't finance the needs of the church, it should face the facts and close down. For New Life, as for other small churches, the problem's not that simple. Closing the doors and vacating the building would affect more than the congregation and minister. It would affect the surrounding neighborhood, too...."

As we said, New Life's unanimous decision to sell its building at the congregational meeting held earlier today has been neither quick nor easy. The quotations above are from the first several paragraphs of an article appearing in the Democrat & Chronicle newspaper on **February 13, 1975**. You see, we've taken over forty-two years to finally arrive at this point. And, upon examination of church records, this is only the last of several instances since 1975 when New Life's session or congregation considered and voted on initiating a process to close the building and/or dissolve our church.

The fact is that New Life Presbyterian Church has been in need of selling its building for more than a decade, due to continued loss of membership and the associated decrease in financial

support from members. Given the reality of our financial instability, we have had to look long and hard at our greatest asset/liability: our building. And as many of you know, the ongoing upkeep and maintenance of an aging building takes both time and financial resources - resources that might better be directed elsewhere.

New Life, formerly Mt. Hor Presbyterian Church, started officially in 1893, but had been operating since about 1823, "when Deacon Timothy Fisher organized a Sunday School in a little log school house... known as the Cobb's Hill school house." (source Mt. Hor Presbyterian Church; 75 Years of Christian Faith and Service 1893 - 1968", 1968).

Constructed in 1901, the church's sanctuary seats 420 people, and as a result of an expansion a little over a decade later the building includes a number of other large meeting spaces. It is a building designed for a large congregation. We currently have a membership of about forty individuals, however, we see no more than twenty people at worship on any given Sunday morning. Some of you are aware that New Life recently needed to engage in a capital campaign to address deficiencies in the building, as well as to improve access to the building. As a result of a successful campaign, which members and several churches and organizations both in and out of the Presbytery contributed to, we were able to put a new roof on much of the building and stop the need for a bucket brigade during winter and spring. And, we were able to make the restroom and sanctuary levels of our building accessible with two interior lifts. Fittingly, we've also learned that New Life's leaking roof was another tie to our roots. Apparently, the night on which the Rochester Presbytery approved the formation of Mt. Hor, in November 1893, was also a rainy night and as a prominent member of the Presbytery later recalled, he had to "move his chair three times" during that organizational gathering at the Cobb's Hill School building to "avoid the rain dripping through the ceiling." (source Mt. Hor Presbyterian Church; 75 Years of Christian Faith and Service", 1968) And also of interest is the fact that the early church was formed of ten women, four children and three men - a ratio that one might observe on a visit to the church even to this day. The parallels of the early church and the current church also include neighborhood connections, a focus on Sunday School, and an ongoing focus and presence of youth (e.g., modern day youth ministry springing from the Christian Endeavor movement).

But the reality is that a small and shrinking congregation is not financially capable of supporting such a large structure, and it is for this reason that we find ourselves in need of selling the building - not as an end, but as a beginning of a ministry that, freed of the burdens of a building, can continue to minister to our neighbors, including youth. New Life's congregation unanimously voted over one year ago, after considerable discernment, to request that we be permitted to initiate the process of selling the building. Indeed, New Life even delayed initiating the sale process until November of 2016, as a concession to the request of members of the Presbytery to assure that we had engaged in appropriate discernment. As noted above, New Life's history shows this was not a new situation, and the seeds for the decision to proceed were planted decades ago, it just took some time for those seeds to root.

There is a great deal of energy and excitement still alive in the congregation at New Life, but without the opportunity to shed ourselves of our greatest liability (the building), and as a result bolster our financial situation with the proceeds of the property, our little church is no longer able to thrive, or even survive. New Life initiated, and intends to continue, planning and pursuing a blended relationship with South Presbyterian Church and has acknowledged that intent as part of our motion. Simply put, we felt it appropriate to inform the Trustees and Presbytery of what we currently envision as our "after-sale" future. We have also attempted to address, and hopefully allay, fears or concerns of those skeptical of allowing the remaining remnant of New Life to control the proceeds of the building's sale. Accordingly, the motion approved earlier today by our congregation set out specific guidelines that repay our obligations, provide for giving (tithe) to Presbytery and leave a small legacy (for an as yet undetermined purpose) to

the neighborhood. The remaining funds are directed to support the ongoing, active ministry and presence of "New Life on Monroe" for a period of at least three years - whether it be worship, children's ministry or the continuation of our food cupboard. The funds allocated are set forth in both the unanimously approved motion as well as the "WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?" document (1-page explanation) that are included with this submission.

Respectfully submitted,

The Elders and Congregation of New Life Presbyterian Church

John A. ...

MOTION

At a Special Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the NEW LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH *aka* New Life Community Church: United Presbyterian ("NLPC" or "Church"), duly called and held at the Congregation's usual place of worship at 243 Rosedale Street, Rochester, New York 14620:

1. The Congregation hereby approves the Purchase and Sale Agreement from BROTHERHOOD OF CROSS AND STAR, USA ("BROTHERHOOD"), a District of Columbia not-for-profit corporation, last dated May 26, 2017, subject to such modifications and additional provisions as may be negotiated by the NLPC Session and accepted by the BROTHERHOOD (collectively, the "Contract"), for the sale of the Church Property known as 1006 Monroe Avenue, in the City of Rochester, Monroe County, New York (Tax Account Numbers 121.760-0001-079.000), for the Sale Price of \$369,000.00, with such contingencies, terms and conditions as are set forth in such Contract and as may be negotiated by Session. This approval shall be subject to:
 - A. The approval of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley; and
 - B. Approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, as required by law.
2. The Congregation further approves the recommendation of the NLPC Session that NLPC continue in a short-term covenant relationship with South Presbyterian Church ("SPC") until such time as both the sale of such property is completed and a plan has been developed jointly with SPC for blending of the two congregations that will welcome the ministries of NLPC as Acts of Faith (referred to as New Life on Monroe) of South Presbyterian Church, with the assistance and support of the Presbytery Committee on Ministry and as approved by the respective Congregations of NLPC and SPC.
3. The net proceeds of the sale of such property, after payment of all necessary and customary closing costs, including attorney's fees and the expenses of procuring the Court Order, shall be allocated and applied by the Church, for the following purposes:
 - A. Repayment of all outstanding indebtedness, currently in the amount of approximately \$35,000.00 to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, which was advanced to NLPC as a line of credit to support the ongoing mission

- and ministry of the church.
- B. A gift of not less than \$30,000 to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, with the request that a substantial portion of such gift be dedicated to the support, redevelopment and transformation of congregations within the City of Rochester.
 - C. Allocation of up to \$25,000 to benefit the Upper Monroe neighborhood, the specific use(s) of such funds to be approved by NLPC's Session and Congregation.
 - D. To supplement pledges and other sources of income of NLPC, and for the budgetary support of the covenant relationship with SPC, as referenced in Paragraph 2 above; and
 - E. For the lease of space in the Upper Monroe neighborhood to support the mission and ministry of New Life on Monroe, including a location(s) for youth programming (e.g., Monroe Milers, VBS, vacation lunch, etc.), and other acts of faith as approved by the Session of NLPC;
 - F. For the lease of suitable space in the Church Property, if the way be clear, for continuation of the existing volunteer-run food-cupboard, or for the rental of space in an alternative location suitable for the food-cupboard, in an amount not exceeding \$6,000/year (\$500/mo.) for up to a three year period, or such greater amounts as may hereafter be approved by the Congregation;
 - G. All remaining funds shall be applied as directed by the NLPC Session or as otherwise necessary for the future support New Life on Monroe, including the lease of programming, worship or storage space for New Life on Monroe; and
4. The Trustee, Clerk of Session and the Ruling Elders of NLPC, are hereby authorized and directed to take such actions, and to execute and deliver such documents, as shall be appropriate and necessary to effectuate the foregoing.

CERTIFICATION

At a Special Meeting of the Congregation and Corporation of the NEW LIFE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH aka New Life Community Church: United Presbyterian, duly called and held the 4th day of June, 2017, at the Congregation's usual place of worship at 243 Rosedale Street, Rochester, New York 14620, at which a required quorum of members was present, the above Motion was MOVED by Nancy Allinger .

SECONDED by Susan Bradshaw and duly PASSED by ^{unanimous} ~~a majority~~ vote of the members present and voting.

Dated: June 4, 2017

Barbara L. Dunfee
Clerk of Session
New Life Presbyterian Church
(aka New Life Community Church:
United Presbyterian)

June 4, 2017

ROL P. FROHMAN
REV RODERIC P. FROHMAN

WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

Question: *New Life is going to be “rich” – what will they do with all that money?*

Answer: New Life Presbyterian Church’s (NLPC) Session is recommending that, in addition to continuing the pursuit of a blending of our church with South Presbyterian Church, we also direct the allocation of financial resources resulting from the sale of our building asset. We have proposed the following allocation of the anticipated sale proceeds (Note: alpha-numeric references correspond to Cong. Mtg. Motion):

Anticipated Sale price	\$369,000
Realtor fees & Closing costs	<u>(25,000)</u>
Net after Closing	\$344,000
3.A. Repayment of Presbytery line of credit	<u>(35,000)</u>
Net available to New Life	\$309,000
3.B. Tithe (10%) to Presbytery; request that substantial portion to support City congregations	<u>(30,000)</u>
	\$279,000
3.C. Upper Monroe Neighborhood Gift as legacy investment in the community	<u>(25,000)</u>
Net after contributions	\$254,000
3.D. Supplemental support pledges of New Life for budgetary support of covenant relationship with South (e.g., \$4,500/mo. x 36 mo.)	<u>(162,000)</u>
	\$ 92,000
3.E. Lease of space in neighborhood for New Life mission, youth ministry, etc. (\$1,250/mo. x 36 mo.)	<u>(45,000)</u>
	\$ 47,000
3.F. Lease back of food cupboard space in building, or an alternative location (allocating up to \$500/mo. x 36 mo.)	<u>(18,000)</u>
Bal	\$ 29,000

As set forth in 3.G of the motion, any remaining balance of funds will be administered as directed by the NLPC Session or as otherwise necessary for the future support of “New Life on Monroe”, including the lease of programming, worship or storage space for New Life on Monroe.

Keep in mind that New Life recently completed a capital campaign where it not only completed upgrades to its community room, but also replaced significant portions of its aging roof, and upgraded the building to provide accessibility to both its sanctuary and its restrooms on the lower level. Raising approx. \$190K, and earmarking a portion of that for food ministry, was a significant investment by the members, the

community, as well as other churches and foundations. Hence, the members want to honor the recent investments made and have allocated a portion of the anticipated sale proceeds for use by others (Presbytery, Upper Monroe neighborhood).