

Pleasant Plains, Farmingdale AC Final Report and Recommendation for dismissal

The Presbytery of Great Rivers held a called assembly meeting on 3/26/2022 to vote on the recommendation of the Committee on Ministry to form an Administrative Commission for Pleasant Plains – Farmingdale with the following powers:

- To complete the dissolution of the call between Rev. Lonna Lee and Farmingdale Presbyterian Church
- To negotiate and approve the severance package, including the end date
- To call a congregational meeting to approve the dissolution (the call being made on behalf of the Presbytery)
- To assist and walk with their ~~next~~ *interim* pastor search process
- To assume original jurisdiction of the Session, if deemed necessary, according to G-3.0303e

The following amendment was made by COM Moderator Rev. James Benson:

- Under #4: strike the word “next” and add the word “interim” in its place.
- Add the following: “The Administrative Commission shall report to the Presbytery on its work no less than quarterly. Its reports shall be submitted through the Committee on Ministry, which shall in turn report to the Presbytery at each stated assembly meeting on the Commission’s work while preserving confidentiality in its reporting. The Committee on Ministry may release unredacted versions of the reports from the Administrative Commission to those appropriate individuals or councils who have a ‘need to know’ basis for requesting the reports. The Committee on Ministry in consultation with the Leadership Team shall determine a valid ‘need to know’.”
- Add the following: “This commission shall be valid until the May 2023 meeting of the Presbytery, at which time it shall give a final report and conclude its work, or it shall request an extension, including a rationale, of its commission for up to one year. Such extensions may be requested and approved until the Administrative Commission or Presbytery believes that the objectives of the commission have been fulfilled, at which time the final report shall be given.”

The AC began its work April 8, 2022. The first three charges were completed by June 2022. The fourth charge was satisfied by the Session and Pastor J. Steven Smith (UMC) signing an interim contract for the term of 2/1/23-1/31/24. This contract was approved by COM on 1.12.2023. Pastor Smith is approved as a Temporary Member of the Presbytery, upon successful completion of an online PCUSA polity course.

This concludes our work on behalf of the Presbytery of Great Rivers and we ask for our dismissal effective 2/25/2023. We thank you for this opportunity to serve.

The Pleasant Plains, Farmingdale Administrative Commission

RE Julie Bruninga, secretary, Jacksonville First

RE William Opper, Lincoln First

RE Mike Orr, Moderator, Springfield First

TE John Shear, Springfield Third

RE William Ward, Springfield Westminster

TE Christopher Williams, Validated Ministry