

Stated Meeting ~ Presbytery of Geneva
Tuesday March 14, 2015
Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, New York
The Rev. Nancy Farrell, Pastor

*Together, we pray, play, and energize our congregations to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ.
 Together, we lift up each other in love.
 Together, we call others into the circle of God's grace.*

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Geneva held a duly-called Stated Meeting on Saturday March 14, 2015 at the Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra, New York.

CONVENING

The Rev. David Kilgore, Presbytery moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., a quorum being present.

The Moderator offered the opening prayer.

ROLL

ACTIVE MINISTERS SERVING CHURCHES (P = Present; Ex = Excused; A = Absent)

Name	Jan 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
Baker, Kirk – Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)	P	A			
Barnard, David – Jasper, Jasper (Stated Supply)	A	A			
Bhasker, Stanley – Bath, Bath	P	Ex			
Bond, Bryan – Pulteney, First (Stated Supply)	A	Moved			
Bond, Norma - Canisteo	A	Moved			
Campbell, Anne – Moreland, Moreland(Stated Supply)	Resigned	01-15			
Crimmins, Betsey – Elmira, First	P	P			
Donnan, Ellen – Dundee, First / Junius, Junius	P	Ex			
Duncan, Russell – Lyons, First	P	P			
Dygert, Steve – Almond, Union of Churches	A				
Farrell, Nancy – Palmyra, Western	Ex	P			
Grohman, Deb – Ontario, Ontario	P	P			
Heimberger, Gail – Sodus, First United	Ex	P			
Hicks, Jim – Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	P	P			
Karr-Lyon, Beverly – Watkins Glen, First	P	Ex			
Kennedy, Glen – Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)	A	A			
Kerr, James - Canandaigua, United	P	A			
Knight, Jonathan – Horseheads, Horseheads	A	P			
Lester, Donald – Howard, Union*	A				
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – Geneva, First	P	P			
Loving, Amy – Bellona, Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca #9	Ex	P			
Malles, Paul – Penn Yan, First	P	P			
Marr, Peter – Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*	A	A			
Moore, Banu – Corning, First	Ex	Moved			
Moore, James – Corning, First	Ex	Moved			
Ntuala, Leah – Seneca Falls, First	P	P			
O'Leary, Lucinda – Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*	E	E			
Peeples, Cheryl – Trumansburg, First Ulysses	P	P			
Price, Richard – Big Flats, Big Flats	A	A			
Prong, Lee – Williamson, Williamson (Interim)*	P	Interim	dissolved		
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – Ithaca, Ithaca	P	P			
Roth, Marjory – Huron, Huron	P	A			
Smith, Paul – Marion, Marion*	A	A			

Stuber, Walter – <i>Wolcott, Wolcott</i>	A	A			
Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps, United (Stated Supply) Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P	A			
Yao, James – <i>Lodi, Lodi Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i>	P	P			
Yao, Nancy Meehan – <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor) Hammondsport 1st (Stated Supply)</i>	Ex	P			
Waters, Kathleen – <i>Elmira, North (Interim)</i>	A	Moved			
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo, First (Temporary Supply)*</i>	P	P			
Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i>	P	P			
TOTAL PRESENT	20	17			
TOTAL EXCUSED	6	3			
TOTAL ABSENT	15	11			

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
Ashby, David (V) <i>Temporary Pastor, another denomination</i>	P	Ex			
Campbell, Anne (AL)		A			
Davis, Joelle (AL)	Ex	Ex			
Delhagen, Harold (V) <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	A	Ex			
Diffenbacher, Bryan (AL)	A				
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) <i>Pultneyville, Reformed</i>	Ex	P			
Haines, Todd (AL)	A	A			
Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A	P			
McCollister, Dan (AL)	A	A			
Roth, Russ (AL)	P	A			
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	A	A			
Warrington, Karl (AL)	A	A			
TOTAL PRESENT	2	2			
TOTAL EXCUSED	2	3			
TOTAL ABSENT	6	6			

HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS (If serving a church, service is noted in parentheses) (Honorably Retired Ministers, if not present, are automatically marked as “excused.”)

Name	Jan 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
Bartel, Joanne	Ex	Ex			
Bembower, Dean	Ex	Ex			
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex	Ex			
Bollinger, Zane	Ex	Ex			
Coffman, Fred	P	P			
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex	Ex			
Crego, Peter	Ex	Ex			
Edwards, Sam	Ex	P			
Elder, John	Ex	Ex			
Flaherty, Scott	Ex	Ex			
Gerling, Jim	Ex	Ex			
Gould, John	Ex	Ex			
Hood, Kenneth	Ex	Ex			
Husted, Susan	Ex	Ex			
Johnson, Timothy	P	P			
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex	Ex			
Kilgore, David	P	P			
Magley, Fred	Ex	Ex			
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex	Ex			
Montgomery, Tom	Ex	Ex			

Murray, Virginia – <i>Interim, Hornell United</i>	Ex	Ex			
Newman, James	Ex	X			
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex	Ex			
Outtonson, Hugh	Ex	Ex			
Rochelle, Robert	Ex	Ex			
Teller, Gailey	Ex	Ex			
Tennies, Herb	Ex	Ex			
Tyrrell, Jamie– <i>Interim, Atlanta</i>	P	Ex			
Valk, John	Ex	Ex			
TOTAL PRESENT	4	4			

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS (Ministers of another Denomination or another Presbytery Serving Presbyterian Churches in PGV)

Name	Jan 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
The Rev. Walter Stuber	Ex	Ex			
The Rev. Val Fowler	P	P			
TOTAL PRESENT	1	1			
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	1			

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
Addison	A	A			
Almond	A	A			
Andover	A	A			
Arkport	A	Lorraine Glidden			
Bath	Kathleen Swan	A			
Bellona	A	A			
Big Flats	A	A			
Burdett	A	A			
Canandaigua	Ron Fulle	Ron Fulle			
Canisteo	A	A			
Cohocton	Michael Allen	A			
Corning	A	Kirk Allen			
Dundee	Ex	A			
East Palmyra	A	A			
Elmira, First	Rehanna Stanley	Rehanna Stanley			
Elmira, Lake Street	A	A			
Elmira, North	Jeff Richards	Jeff Richards			
Elmira, Westminster	A	A			
Fairville	William Randolph	William Randolph			
Geneva, First (1)	Edwin Frick	Edwin Frick			
Geneva, First (2)	Bill Fox	Bill Fox			
Hammondsport	James Walling	James Walling			
Hector	A	A			
Hedgesville	<i>Dissolved 01/27</i>				
Hornell	A	Irene Schu			
Horseheads	A	James Zearfoss			
Howard	A	A			
Huron	Linda Hayes	Lois Wafler			
Ithaca	Micah Beck	Micah Beck			
Jasper	A	A			
Junius	Kristy Ward	Kristi Ward			
Lodi	A	Steven Frost			
Lyons	Tracy Rankert	Tracy Rankert			
Marion	A	Connie Franks			
Moreland	A	A			
Naples	A	A			
Newark	Paul Salisbury	A			
Oaks Corners	A	Unreadable			

Ontario Center	A	A		
Ovid Federated	A	A		
Painted Post	A	A		
Palmyra	Philip Opdyke	Philip Opdyke		
Penn Yan	Sue Goodrich	Sue Goodrich		
Phelps	A	A		
Prattsburg	Diane Muck	A		
Pulteney	Harriette Potter	Harriette Potter		
Red Creek	A	A		
Rock Stream	A	A		
Romulus	A	A		
Seneca Falls	A	Susan Derr		
Seneca #9	A	A		
Shortsville	A	A		
Sodus	A	Jim Hopkins		
Spencer	C. Thomas Bailey	C. Thomas Bailey		
Trumansburg	Kris Alling	A		
Waterloo	Helen Wadsworth	Joyce M. Yost		
Watkins Glen	A	A		
West Fayette	A	A		
Weston	Vera E. Dykes	A		
Williamson	A	A		
Wolcott	A	Carol Merrell		
TOTAL PRESENT	22	26		
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	0		
TOTAL ABSENT	40	34		

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

(Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 20	Mar 21	May 26	Sept 22	Nov 17
Andrews, Priscilla	Elmira, Lake	CRE	Ex	Retired			
Beals, Steve	West Fayette	CRE	P	P			
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	P	P			
Colvin, Donna	Pulteney	SNE Comm. 2015	P	P			
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A	A			
Limner, Carol	Ovid	Presbyterian Women		P			
Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	A	P			
Peek, Donald	Canisteo	CRE	A	A			
Reynolds, Ellen	Geneva	General Council	P	P			
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE	A	A			
Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE	P	P			
TOTAL PRESENT			5	7			
TOTAL EXCUSED			1	0			
TOTAL ABSENT			5	3			

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency
The Rev. Jim Renfrew	Synod Administrative Review Committee / Member, Presbytery of Genesee Valley / First Presbyterian Church, Byron, NY
Elder Hezekiah (Heze) Simmons	Synod Administrative Review Committee / First Presbyterian Church, Pittsford, NY
Elder Nancy Sprenkle	Synod Administrative Review Committee / First Presbyterian Church, Pittsford, NY

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)

Includes CREs not serving churches

Rick Decker	APC
Rosanna Bates	Pulteney
Cheryl Green	Hornell
Priscilla Andrews	CRE / Hornell

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 27	Mar 14	May19	Sept 19	Nov
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	26	23			
Total Elder Commissioners Present	27	33			
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+1	+10			
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**	21	17			
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***	36	34			
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	19	15			
Total Registered Visitors	4	4			

* Does not include Corresponding Members, as they have only voice, not vote; includes Validated, At-large, and Honorably Retired

** Does not include Corresponding Members or Honorably Retired Ministers

*** Includes churches marked "excused"

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

(Corresponding Members – Voice / No Vote)

The presbytery VOTED to enroll the following persons as Corresponding Members:

The Rev. Val Fowler (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Honeoye Falls, NY / Stated Clerk, pro-tem)

The Rev. Jim Renfrew (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Byron, Synod Administrative Review Committee)

Ruling Elder Nancy Sprenkle (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Pittsford, First; Synod Administrative Review Committee)

Ruling Hezekiah "Heze" Simmons (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Pittsford, First / Synod Administrative Review Committee)

(New Commissioners / Guests)

The presbytery welcomed the new elder commissioners and guests from the following congregations:

Seneca Falls Waterloo Arkport Oaks Corners

The presbytery welcomed guests present for the meeting.

(Approval of Docket)

The presbytery VOTED to approve the final docket for the meeting.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated clerk pro-tem, the Rev. Val Fowler presented the report.

Action Items

Upon his recommendation, the presbytery VOTED to:

(Privilege of Voice)

1. **Grant** privilege of voice to those non-commissioners who are making or participating in reports.

(Minutes)

2. **Approve** the Minutes of the Stated Presbytery meeting, held on January 27, 2015 at the First Presbyterian Church, Penn Yan, NY.

(Summary of the Annual Statistical Report for the year 2014)

3. **Receive** the summary of the Annual Statistical Report for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, as of December 31, 2014.

Prior Active Members (12/31/2013) 6,000

Gains

Profession 17 & under 35

Profession 18 & over 102

Certificate 14

Other	52
Total of Gains	203
Losses	
Certificate	51
Death	140
Other	367
Total of Losses	558
Net Gains/Losses	- 355

Total Active Membership (12/31/2014) 5,645

Average Church Attendance (total, presbytery-wide) 2,711

Affiliate members 141

Baptisms

Children	72
Adult	14

Ten congregations reported **net gains in membership** this past year.

Lyons	11
Ovid	11
Naples	8
Cohocton	4
Phelps	4
Huron	3
Penn Yan	3
Arkport	2
Pulteny	1
Wolcott	1

Ten congregations reported **adult baptisms** this past year.

Elmira First	2
Phelps	2
Spencer	2
Williamson	2
Canandaigua	1
Ithaca	1
Marion	1
Painted Post	1
Red Creek	1
Trumansburg	1

Information Items

(Annual Statistical Report: Comments)

The stated clerk celebrated that we had 95% completion of the annual statistical reports this year. That result is due (a) to the diligence of clerks of session and pastors in this presbytery, and (b) to the capability and diligence of our Administrative Assistant, Karen Jensen. He called attention to what may be a new practice: lifting up the churches which showed a net increase in membership during 2014; and lifting up those churches which reported adult baptisms (one of the best markers of true evangelism).

(Eastern Regional Benefits Conference)

The stated clerk will be attending the Eastern Regional Benefits Conference of the Board of Pensions (PCUSA) on April 29-30, 2015 in Philadelphia. Though none of us know quite what the future will bring, there is likely to be reflection and preliminary hints about what is coming in the next five years. The stated clerk will do his best to keep the presbytery apprised of current realities and of changes that are coming. The main concern, of course, is Health Care and the Major Medical program. With regard to pensions, our Board of Pensions is something everyone should be proud of. We were told last year that should the Board of Pensions receive no more income starting today, the pensions of all currently serving and retired pastors are guaranteed until 2075: way better than what we hear about Social Security. Would that every presbyter could attend such a conference, because it is one area of our church's life about which we can be rightfully proud. He noted that the Presbytery Leader of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley is a new member of the Board of the Board of Pensions. (Would that be the "Board Board?")

(Training / Support for Clerks of Session & Pastors)

Clerks and pastors should keep eyes and ears open regarding fall opportunities for clerks (and pastors) to come together for training and support. The stated clerk is working on a Presbytery of Geneva version of his *Handbook for Clerks of Session*. The goal is to have them ready by the September presbytery meeting.

He encouraged clerks to call him if they have any problems or questions. Help is just 10 button pushes away.

The stated clerk thanked those who have contacted him with questions and for help. He encouraged clerks and pastors to call regarding polity questions and process questions.

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH / RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Rev. Nancy Farrell welcomed the Presbytery to Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra. She honored those who are ready to help presbyters during the meeting, and pointed out those who are prepared to give a sense of the history of Western Presbyterian Church.

Cheryl Peebles offered to draft a Resolution of Thanks to the host congregation for presentation at the end of the meeting.

APPOINTMENT OF TELLERS

The Moderator appointed the following persons as tellers:

Ruling Elder Cheryl Green (Hornell)
Ruling Elder Jim Zearfoss (Horseheads)
The Rev. Jon Knight (Horseheads)
The Rev. Janice Fitzgerald (HR / Pultneyville Reformed)

REPORT OF THE GENERAL COUNCIL

Gail Heimberger presented the report of the General Council. She thanked all those who have presented concerns and celebrations concerning the life of the presbytery. The General Council continues to work toward transparency and support.

She called attention to the upcoming Presbytery Wide Retreat, to be held in Geneva on April 25, 2015. The retreat will be led by David Olson. Everyone is welcome to participate in the retreat.

The May meeting of presbytery will include a celebration of the ministry of the Hedgesville Presbyterian Church.

Gail shared the process by which the Proposed Amendments will be considered by the presbytery. She honored the graciousness that the presbytery shows to one another, even in times of disagreement.

Action Items

The General Council VOTED to recommend that the presbytery:

(Proposed Amendment to the *Book of Confessions* – Confession of Belhar 14-1)

1. **Approve** including the Confession of in the *Book of Confessions*?

[NOTE: Inclusion of the Confession of Belhar in the *Book of Confessions* will require: (1) approval of 2/3 of the presbyteries in the Presbyterian Church USA) **and** (2) approval by the 221st General Assembly (2016, Portland, OR).]

The presbytery VOTED unanimously by voice vote to approve the motion.

(Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order*)

2. **Approve** the following proposed amendments to the *Book of Order*.

[NOTE: Action will be taken on these proposed amendments as a whole, unless a motion is made to lift one or more of them for separate consideration.]

It was requested to lift out Item 14-B.2.

The presbytery voted, unanimously to approve Proposed Amendments 14-A, 14-B-1, 14-C, D, and 14-E.

(14-A. Renunciation of Jurisdiction)

Amend G-2.0509 of the Form of Government by adding the following new paragraph at the end of that section. [Text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“Whenever a former teaching elder has renounced jurisdiction in the midst of a disciplinary proceeding as the accused, that former teaching elder shall not be permitted to perform any work, paid or volunteer, in any congregation or entity under the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).”

(14-B.1. Final Assessment)

Amend G-2.0607 of the Form of Government as follows. [Text to be deleted is show with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“A candidate may not enter into negotiation for his or her service as a teaching elder without approval of the presbytery *of care*. The presbytery shall record when it has certified a candidate ready for examination *by a presbytery* for ordination, pending a call. Evidence of readiness to begin ordered ministry as a teaching elder shall include:

“a. [Text in a.–c. remains unchanged.]

“d. ~~satisfactory grades, together with the examination papers~~ *examination materials, together with evaluations that declare those materials satisfactory* in the areas covered by any standard ordination examination approved by the General Assembly. Such examinations shall be prepared and administered by a body created by the presbyteries.”

(14-B.2. Accommodations)

Amend G-2.0610 of the Form of Government as follows. [Text to be deleted is show with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown in italics.]

~~“G-2.0610 Exceptions—Accommodations to Particular Circumstances~~

~~“By a three-fourths vote, a presbytery~~ *When a presbytery concludes there are good and sufficient reasons for accommodations to the particular circumstances of an individual seeking ordination, it may, by a three-fourths vote, waive any of the requirements for ordination in G-2.06, except for those of G-2.0607d. If a presbytery judges that there are good and sufficient reasons why a candidate should not be required to satisfy the requirements of G-2.0607d, it shall approve by three-quarters vote some alternate means by which to ascertain the readiness of the candidate for ministry in the areas covered by the standard ordination examinations. A full account of the rea- sons for exception—any waiver or alternate means to ascertain readiness shall be included in the minutes of the presbytery and communicated to the presbytery to which an inquirer or candidate may be transferred.”*

(14-C Child Protection Policy)

Amend the fourth paragraph of G-3.0106 as follows. [Text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“All councils shall adopt and implement a sexual misconduct policy *and a child protection policy*.”

(14-D Minimum Composition of a Presbytery)

Amend the second paragraph of G-3.0301 of the Form of Government as follows. [Text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“The minimum composition of a presbytery is ten duly constituted sessions and ten teaching elders, unless an exception is approved by its synod and the General Assembly giving consideration to the responsibilities assigned to presbyteries in G-3-01 and G-3.03.”

(14-E Interreligious Stance)

Amend G-5.0102 of the Form of Government as follows. . [Text to be deleted is show with strike-through; text to be added or inserted is shown in italics.]

“The Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) at all levels ~~seeks new~~ will be open to and will seek opportunities for conversation and understanding respectful dialogue and mutual relationships with non-Christian entities and persons from other religious [entities] traditions. It does this in the faith that the church of Jesus Christ, by the power of the Holy Spirit, is a sign and means of God’s intention for the wholeness of all humankind and all creation.”

(Action on the Proposed Amendment Lifted: 14-B.2)

Following discussion and clarification, the presbytery VOTED unanimously by voice vote, to approve the Amendment.

3. Approve the following Proposed Amendment:

(14-F Marriage)

Amend W-4.9000 by striking the current text and replacing it with the following: [Text to be added or inserted is shown in italic.]

“Marriage is a gift God has given to all humankind for the well-being of the entire human family. Marriage involves a unique commitment between two people, traditionally a man and a woman, to love and support each other for the rest of their lives. The sacrificial love that unites the couples sustains them as faithful and responsible members of the church and the wider community.

“In civil law, marriage is a contract that recognizes the rights and obligations of the married couple in society. In the Reformed tradition, marriage is also a covenant in which God has an active part, and which the community of faith publicly witnesses and acknowledges.

“If they meet the requirements of the civil jurisdiction in which they intend to marry, a couple may request that a service of Christian marriage be conducted by a teaching elder in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), who is authorized, though not required, to act as an agent of the civil jurisdiction in recording the marriage contract. A couple requesting a service of Christian marriage shall receive instruction from the teaching elder, who may agree to the couple’s request only if, in the judgment of the teaching elder, the couple demonstrate sufficient understanding of the nature of the marriage covenant and commitment to living their lives together according to its values. In making this decision, the teaching elder may seek the counsel of the session, which has authority to permit or deny the use of church property for a marriage service.

“The marriage service shall be conducted in a manner appropriate to this covenant and to the forms of Reformed worship, under the direction of the teaching elder and the supervision of the session (W-1.4004–.4006). In a service of marriage, the couple marry each other by exchanging mutual promises. The teaching elder witnesses the couple’s promises and pronounces God’s blessing upon their union. The community of faith pledges to support the couple in upholding their promises; prayers may be offered for the couple, for the communities that support them, and for all who seek to live in faithfulness.

“A service of worship recognizing a civil marriage and confirming it in the community of faith may be appropriate when requested by the couple. The service will be similar to the marriage service except that the statements made shall reflect the fact that the couple is already married to one another according to the laws of the civil jurisdiction.”

“Nothing herein shall compel a teaching elder to perform nor compel a session to authorize the use of church property for a marriage service that the teaching elder or the session believes is contrary to the teaching elder’s or the session’s discernment of the Holy Spirit and their understanding of the Word of God.”

Opportunity was given for comments, questions, and debate on the Proposed Amendments.

The presbytery VOTED by ballot to approve the amendment by a vote of 42 yes / 13 no.

(Synod of the Northeast / Revised By-Laws)

3. Receive for first reading, lines 85 – 110 of the Revised By-Laws for the Synod of the Northeast:

NOTE: The Synod of the Northeast requests all constituent presbyteries to vote on the recommended changes by May 28, 2015.

Donna Colvin presented the portion of the By-Laws which are under consideration for vote by presbyteries. Opportunity was given for questions related to the proposed action.

2.000 SYNOD ASSEMBLY

2.100 Membership

2.101 Commissioners: The Synod Assembly shall consist of one teaching elder, one ruling elder, two members at large and one young adult member (age 17-22) elected as Commissioners by each presbytery within the bounds of the Synod for the purpose of voice and vote. Their term shall be two years, commencing at their first Assembly meeting and continuing for all Stated and Called meetings until their successor’s first meeting.

2.102 Alternate Commissioners: Each presbytery shall also elect one presbyter or active church member to serve as alternate commissioners. The alternate commissioner shall serve when the commissioner is unable to attend a particular Synod Assembly meeting, and may complete the unexpired term of the Commissioner when so designated by the presbytery.

2.103 Additional Members at Large: In order that the Synod Assembly may be a diverse community of gracious welcome, it may provide in its standing rules for additional members at large.

2.200 Unexpired Terms: In the event that commissioners’ or alternates’ terms conclude prematurely, their presbytery shall elect someone to fill the remainder of the unexpired term.

2.300 Conduct of Elections: The Synod Standing Rules shall govern the conduct of elections.

2.301 Eligibility for Re-Election: Members of the Synod Assembly are eligible for re-election at their presbyteries’ discretion, for not more than three consecutive terms.

Background:

A New Way Forward: new, leaner design of Synod Government effective October 2014. The 2014 Synod Assembly marked the end of the transition year for the New Way Forward.

The New Way Forward includes a commitment to support and facilitate programs and initiatives that encourage and resource our young leaders who are under the age of 40. A working group met over the last 18 months culminating in the first retreat with emerging leaders across the Synod and beyond. The retreat was a time of conversation, connection, movement building and finding new partners in ministry. The group will hold at least one additional large gathering. In the meantime, they will organize through social media and meet in smaller groups locally. While they do not know yet how this group will manifest itself within the Synod, they do know they will engage with each other and with the Synod with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.

Starting with this fall, the Synod Assembly will meet every two years. During the alternate years, the Synod will plan an event similar to the Big Tent in which presbyteries will share innovative programs as well as the progress of the Synod networks. A tentative month for the 2015 meeting is May – location is being determined.

The Synod Leader, Stated Clerk, and Treasurer will stand for election by Synod Assembly for a term of four years. The following were elected: Synod Leader - TE Harold Delhagen, Stated Clerk - TE Nancy Talbot, and Treasurer – RE Alan Ford.

Synod Council's name has changed to Synod Mission and Ministries Commission to reflect the value that mission is at the center of our work. The Mission and Ministries Commission is to have one member from each presbytery (total of 22 presbyteries). The Commission will meet four times each year. The Commission will have three working groups: Mission, Networks, and Administrative. Each working group will do the detailed work and discussion required before bringing recommendations to the Commission for action and vote.

- **Mission** – articulate the Synod's common mission – including diversity, emerging leaders, leadership, innovation, collegiate ministries, and special projects
- **Networks** – develop and coordinate networks, or groups of individuals, churches, and/or presbyteries recognized by the Commission and committed to gathering and working together with a common purpose that embodies the overall mission of the Synod. The Synod Networker will assist with development and coordination
- **Administrative** – carrying out administrative functions of the Commission – with respect to finance, insurance, legal affairs, management of capital assets, sponsoring training events for presbyteries, etc.

The By-Laws create a leaner organization which should be quicker to respond to ideas and projects from congregations or a group of people with similar interests and goals.

The By-Laws require a simple majority of presbyteries to vote for Lines 87 – 110 which describe presbytery representation at the Synod Assembly. The vote must be taken by May 28, 2015. Each presbytery will have four commissioners (as well as one alternate) – one Teaching Elder, one Ruling Elder and two Members at Large who may or may not be TE or RE. Preferably, one of these commissioners will be under the age of 35. It is expected that the Members at Large will encourage participation by younger people than is typical now.

Each presbytery will have one Young Adult Member, 17 – 22 years old at time of Synod Assembly, who will have voice and vote.

(2015 Presbytery Budget

4. **Approve** the 2015 Presbytery Budget, as presented for second reading.

(Mission Trip to West Virginia)

5. **Commission** the workers participating in the April Mission Trip to West Virginia.

The Moderator reported the names of those who have registered for the Mission Trip. He offered prayer for the Mission Trip: those who are traveling and those who will receive their ministry.

Information Items

The General Council VOTED to:

(Cluster Training)

1. **Approve** the recommendation that the presbytery organize cluster training, using the "Theo-Academy for Elders." Deb Lind-Schmitz will organize the training through the Committee on Ministry.

(Director of Camp Whitman)

2. **Approve** hiring Lea Kone as Director of Camp Whitman, effective March 1, 2015 at the following terms:
 - \$25,000 salary and pension

(Camp Whitman Operating Team)

3. **Extend** the life of the Camp Whitman Operating Team from July 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

(Hedgesville Administrative Commission)

4. **Approve** up to \$500 for the expenses of a lawyer for property transactions related to the Hedgesville building.

5. **Provide** insurance for the Hedgesville building at a cost of \$425.00 per year.

Rationale for the two actions:

Terry Waite has contacted the Administrative Commission for Hedgesville with an offer to “take over” the building and pay some legal fees. The concern continues to be the salability of the property, which has no water service, is land-locked, and is “in the middle of nowhere.”

(West Virginia Mission Trip)

6. **Approve** the Presbytery Mission Trip to West Virginia, April 19-25, 2015. Paul Salisbury and crew will be going to West Virginia to work on more projects affected by flooding.

(Designated Accounts)

7. **Divide** the \$140,000.00 Camp Whitman bequests into (1) a \$15,000.00 restricted fund, and (2) a \$125,000.00 open fund (which encompasses the Vittum donation).

Rationale:

This item, which does not require presbytery action, is a result of contacting the donors to determine the intent of their donations, and the decision was made accordingly.

(Study Leave Fund)

8. **Move** the funds in accounts for pastors who have retired and/or moved out of the Presbytery Study Leave Account and into the Study Leave Continuing Education Fund.

9. **Send** letters to those pastors who still have money in the Presbytery Study Leave Account, (1) requesting them to use that money for study leave by December 31, 2015; and (2) informing them that funds which remain unused at that date will be transferred to the Study Leave Continuing Education Fund.

(Board of Pensions Representative)

10. **Appoint** the Rev. Deb Lind-Schmidt as representative to the Board of Pensions for the Presbytery of Geneva.

(Waterloo)

11. **Authorize** the Waterloo Presbyterian Church to proceed with the masonry repair project.

(Hector)

12. **Authorize** the Hector Presbyterian Church to proceed with Phase I of their building renovation project (exterior sanctuary repairs).

Background

A Facilities Planning Team was formed in 2011 to explore options and make a recommendation to the session. They proposed a two-phase project. On February 11, 2015, the session met and passed a motion to proceed with Phase I – Church Exterior Renovation Project at an estimated cost of \$135,000 to be funded through a capital campaign, grants, and loans with the balance, if needed, from our unrestricted Schuleen Plus Fund.

(Arkport)

13. **Authorize** the Arkport Presbyterian Church to proceed with sale of their manse.

(Ovid)

14. **Approve** the sale of the Ovid Thrift Shop by the Ovid Federated Church. The United Methodist Church conference has approved the sale.

REPORT OF THE SYNOD ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE

The Moderator introduced the representatives of the Committee who are present. The Rev. Jim Renfrew presented an update of the Committee’s work on behalf of the Committee. [The text of the report is included as **Attachment A**]

Opportunity was offered for questions and comments.

Jim Renfrew offered prayer for the healing, help, and hope of this presbytery, with thanksgiving for those who are bringing their gifts and spirits toward the fulfillment of that prayer. "Let the peace that Jesus gives flourish in this body, thirty-fold, sixty-fold, a hundred-fold. Amen."

REPORT OF SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST MINISTRY & MISSION COMMITTEE

Virginia Champlin presented the report. She spoke to a letter which the Committee sent, regarding the publicity for this year's One Great Hour of Sharing.

The Working Group approved \$29,000 in grants for Higher Education Ministries throughout the Synod.

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Carol Limner presented the report. She encouraged attendance at the Women's Gathering at Trumansburg, on May 2, 2015. The theme will be "Community Gardens and Community Food Programs." The event is open to all women who are interested, whether or not their congregation has an active women's group.

June 18-21, 2015 is the date of the Women's Gathering in Minneapolis, MN.

PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Rev. Leah Ntuala presented the report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee.

There being no nominations from the floor, the = presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons:

YAAD Member of Synod Council

Brionna Raftery (Elmira, First)

Committee on Ministry

The Rev. Stanley Bhasker – Class of 2017

The Rev. Jim Hicks – Class of 2016

Presbytery Treasurer

Ruling Elder Milt Erb (Hammondsport)

Co-Chair of Personnel Committee

Ruling Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer)

There is still a need for a member of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

CAMP WHITMAN

Tom Bailey, from the Camp Operating Team, introduced the recently hired, Director of Camp Whitman, Lea Kone. She noted that "It is 112 days until Camp Whitman." She updated the presbytery on the process of hiring camp staff, and the goals for this coming year's camp program. Elder John DeHority (Downtown Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY) has been hired as the Waterfront Director for the summer.

The Camp is in need of a Camp Nurse.

The Pine Camp has registrations for almost 50% of the camping spaces.

Lea is available to any church for interpreting Camp Whitman

Gail Heimberger led a brief *Service of Commissioning* for Camp Director Lea Kone.

WORSHIP SERVICE

The presbytery gathered for a worship service, including the Service of the Lord's Supper.

LUNCH

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Nancy Meehan Yao, Chair, presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry. She presented the proposed *Commissioned Ruling Elder Formation Program*, for second reading and action.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the *Commissioned Ruling Elder Formation Program*.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Deborah Lind Schmitz presented the report of the Committee on Ministry. She gave opportunity for persons to ask questions related to the work of the Committee on Ministry.

Action Items

The Committee VOTED to recommend that the presbytery:

There are no such items for the March 14, 2015 presbytery meeting.

Information Items

The Committee VOTED to:

(Moderator Appointments)

1. **Appoint** Elder Kirk Allen to moderate the Annual Meeting for First Presbyterian Church, Cohocton, NY.
2. **Appoint** Joel Robinson as moderator of the session of Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY.
3. **Appoint** Elder Don Peek, CRE as moderator of the session of the Canisteo Presbyterian Church, according to terms of his contract.
4. **Appoint** the Rev. Stanley Bhasker as moderator of the session of North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY on February 19, 2015.
5. **Appoint, if the way be clear**, the Rev. Russ Roth as moderator of the session of the Williamson Presbyterian Church, effective March 1, 2015.
6. **Appoint** Susan Frost as moderator of the February 25, 2015 and March 25, 2015 session meetings at Oaks Corners during the absence of moderator the Rev. Jim Gerling.
7. **Appoint** the Rev. Fred Magley to moderate the special congregation meeting of the Lyons Presbyterian Church on February 15, 2015. The purpose of the special meeting is to act on the recommendation to request the presbytery to approve the call of the Rev. Russ Duncan from Stated Supply to Pastor and to approve his Installation as Pastor on February 22, 2015 at 4 p.m. at the Lyons Presbyterian Church.

(Shortsville / the Rev. A.J. Tierson)

8. **Approve** the Stated Supply Contract (3/8 time) between the session of the Shortsville Presbyterian Church, Shortsville, NY and the Rev. A.J. Tierson, effective February 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	13,030.00
Housing Allowance	4,560.00
Pension/Medical	3,000.00
Continuing Education	375.00
Travel & Professional Expense	57.5 / mile

Study Leave: 2 weeks / 2 Sundays

Vacation:

(Hornell / Compensation Agreement)

9. **Approve, if the way be clear**, the call of the Hornell Presbyterian Church to the Rev. Katherine Bauman Gillis to be Pastor, effective April 1, 2015, at the following terms:

Cash Salary	38,460.00
Manse Value	15,000.00
Total Effective Salary	53,460.00

Board of Pensions Benefits	18,557.00
Books	50.00

Study Leave: 2 weeks / 2 Sundays
 Vacation: 31 days / 4 Sundays

Approximate moving expenses: 2,000.00

(Elmira, North / the Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond)

10. **Approve** (pending approval of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley) the Transitional Pastor Contract (full-time) between the Session of North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY and the Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond, effective April 1, 2015 through March 31, 2016 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	37,692.00
Housing Allowance	20,000.00
Total Effective Salary	57,692.00

Social Security Offset	4,413.00
Board of Pensions Benefits	20,193.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00
Travel & Professional Expense	2,500.00

Study Leave: 2 weeks, including Sundays (earned at rate of ½ week per quarter)
 Vacation: 6 weeks, including Sundays
 Sick leave: up to 10 week days per contract year
 Bereavement time (in the event of the death of a family member): 3 days

NOTE 1: \$20,000 of the cash salary will be distributed to a 403b account owned by the Transitional Pastor and lodged with Fidelity through the PCUSA. The amount deducted from the base salary may change at the discretion of the Transitional Pastor.

NOTE 2: Prior to being called by the church, the Transitional Pastor has already booked an around-the-world trip from July1-August 12, 2015. She will take 5 weeks of vacation and 1 week of study leave during this time period. One of the weeks, she will be in South Africa, learning more about the history of apartheid and the Belhar Confession.

NOTE 3: The Effective Salary has been adjusted to reflect the purchase by the Transitional Pastor of two weeks of additional vacation, in light of the trip explained in Note 2.

NOTE 4: The Rev. Elfond will remain a minister member of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley, as she is a member of that presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission. She lives in Endwell and will commute.

(Dundee / the Rev. Ellen Donnan)

11. **Approve** the Stated Supply Contract between the Rev. Ellen Donnan and the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Dundee, effective January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	10,000.00
Housing Allowance	13,454.00
Board of Pensions Benefits	8,208.90
Study Leave	500.00
Travel Expenses, vouchered at IRS rate	

Study Leave: 4 weeks / 4 Sundays
 Vacation: 4 weeks / 4 Sundays

(Lyons / the Rev. Russell Duncan)

12. **Approve** the following terms of the call of the First Presbyterian Church, Lyons, NY to the Rev. Russell Duncan as Pastor:

Cash Salary	36,468.00
Housing Allowance	13,454.00
Board of Pensions Benefits	16,830.00
Study Leave	1,000.00
Travel Expenses, vouchered at IRS rate	

Study Leave: 2 weeks / 2 Sundays
Vacation: 31 days / 4 Sundays

(Canisteo / Elder Donald Peek, CRE)

13. **Approve** the Commissioned Lay Pastor Covenant between the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Canisteo and Elder Donald Peek, CRE effective February 1, 2015 through January 31, 2016 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	9,000.00
Housing Allowance	8,590.00
Pension / medical	8,500.00
Study Leave	375.00
Travel Expenses, vouchered at IRS rate	

Study Leave: 2 weeks / 2 Sundays
Vacation: 4 weeks / 4 Sundays

(Canisteo / Extension of Terms of Service for Elders)

14. **Approve** extending the terms of service on the session for Elder Harold Miller and Elder Sally Mott.

(Wolcott / the Rev. Walter Stuber)

15. **Approve** the Stated Supply Contract (½ time) between the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Wolcott and the Rev. Walter Stuber, effective September 1, 2014 through August 31, 2015 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	6,500.00
Housing Allowance	12,474.00
Pension / medical	
Study Leave	500.00
Travel Expenses	1,500.00
Professional Expenses	1,000.00

Study Leave: 2 weeks / 2 Sundays
Vacation: 4 weeks / 4 Sundays

(Newark / Waiver of Vacancy Dues)

16. **Approve** waiver of Vacancy Dues (Nov.16 - Dec.31, 2014) for Park Presbyterian Church, Newark. Ellen Donnan will contact the Board of Pensions along with the Rev. Kirk Baker.

BUDGET & FINANCE

The Rev. Jim Yao, Treasurer / Chair of the Committee presented the report.

(2014 Financial Reports – Unaudited)

The unaudited results of 2014 are on the presbytery website. The auditors will be coming in May.

(2014 Restricted Funds Report – Unaudited)

This report (unaudited) is also on the presbytery website. The Committee is comfortable that the report is accurate, and will satisfy the auditors when the records are reviewed in May. The permanently restricted funds (use of interest but not principle) are in custody of New Covenant Funds. The temporarily restricted funds are

(2015 Pledges Report)

Pledges have been received from 42 churches; 18 remain. The Committee encourages all churches to return the 2015 Per Capita & Mission Pledge sheet.

(2015 Budget – Second Reading, for Approval)

The budget reflects a sizeable amount of our surplus to complete paying ourselves off, which will be accomplished within the self-loan's deadline.

The presbytery VOTED to approve the 2015 Budget as presented.

The presbytery expressed appreciation to Jim Yao for the outstanding work he has given to the presbytery.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The presbytery AFFIRMED the following *Resolution of Thanks*, prepared by Russ Duncan and Tracy Rankert.

Whereas the Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra, NY graciously opened its doors to host the March 14, 2015 meeting of the presbytery of Geneva; and

Whereas the congregation was warm and welcoming in their hospitality; and

Whereas a bountiful meal was served to nourish and enrich the presbyters; and

Whereas the choir, organist, and pastor greatly enhanced the atmosphere of our work and worship;

Therefore be it resolved that the presbytery of Geneva expresses its deepest appreciation and thanks to the Western Presbyterian Church for its service to the presbytery, to the community of Palmyra, and to the ministry of Jesus Christ in the world.

CLOSING

The presbytery VOTED to adjourn the meeting. Vice Moderator Dick Schied offered the closing prayer.

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk Pro-Tem

As you go...

- **What have you learned about the Presbytery today?**
- **Who have you gotten to know better today?**
- **What blessings have you shared today?**

Presbytery Retreat: April 25, 2015 at the Geneva Presbyterian Church ~ 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Future Presbytery Dates

Tuesday, May 19 – Bath

Saturday September 19 – Lyons

ATTACHMENT A

Report to the Presbytery of Geneva - March 14, 2015

From the Special Administrative Review Committee of the Synod of the Northeast.

I bring you greetings from the members of the Special Administrative Commission of the Synod of the Northeast, known to many of you by our lovely acronym, "SARC". Three of us are here today: Nancy Sprenkle, Hezekiah Simmons and me, Jim Renfrew. We all happen to be members of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, but with the other three members of the SARC we represent three presbyteries: Genesee Valley, Western New York and Utica. We are trying to surround you with love!

Our purpose has been to review the operations of the Presbytery of Geneva, and to make recommendations to the Synod concerning ways to improve the health and life of this presbytery after a period of great turmoil. The SARC was created by the Synod Mission Council at the request of your General Council. So we are not here against your will. We are here because of your will. Because SARC was created by Synod, our report and recommendations will go to Synod, but everything we are writing is done with our assumption that our report and recommendations will be made known to all of you as well.

Our original mandate was to make our report to Synod by December, but the process has taken longer than anticipated. We know that you are eager to hear our report and may hold some frustration that it has not yet appeared, but we on SARC have pledged to ourselves to do the job well and not simply meet a deadline. Thank you for your patience. And many thanks to all who have shared information and observations with us. One factor in the delay of our final report is that many of you were wanting and willing to speak with us.

Early on in the process we quickly determined that the by-laws governing your operations had been suspended some time before in anticipation of a new set of by-laws. But the new by-laws were never approved in that they were developed by your former Executive Presbyter. When her work was terminated last June it became apparent that the new by-laws that she had a major hand in shaping would not fly. So, as I understand it, since then the presbytery has been operating with remembered by-laws from the past that have been amended and changed over the years in ways that are not easily tracked and not located in a single document. So, on Tuesday SARC presented proposed temporary by-laws to the Geneva Presbytery General Council for review.

A few comments about that: First, General Council has not yet approved these proposed by-laws, and we expect a full discussion of them at the April General Council meeting. Presuming their approval, they would then be brought to Presbytery for approval. Second, these by-laws are clearly labeled by us as "temporary". They are meant to be a starting point for healthier operations. They may be amended and changed in time to come. This is not meant to tell you how to conduct your ministry as a Presbytery. It is meant to be helpful to you as you clarify and regularize your operations and ministry.

We expect to submit our final report to Synod in coming weeks. I trust that you will see our report and recommendations prior to the May meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva. We are putting a lot of work into that report, but I believe when you see it that you will observe how the leadership of this presbytery has already been implementing the kinds of recommendations we will be making. The heart of our recommendations will have a lot to do with renewed vision, shared purpose and the rebuilding of relationships.

In the meantime, what should this Presbytery be doing? Pray, encourage one another, be generous, demonstrate love, make friends, trust, believe, hope. And did I mention pray? Mr. Moderator, we members of SARC would like to request an opportunity to offer a prayer for our sisters and brothers in the Presbytery of Geneva at the conclusion of our report.

[Jim Renfrew]

ATTACHMENT B

Presbytery of Geneva - 2015 Budget (Final Read)

(March 4, 2015)

	2015Budget	2014Actual	2013Actual
Giving and Other Receipts (Income)			
Presbytery Receipts			
Per Capita	\$264,000.00	\$270,432.75	\$291,104.00
Presbytery Mission	\$220,000.00	\$235,821.99	\$255,137.70
Mission Allocation to Camp Whitman	(\$137,777.95)	(\$136,714.71)	(\$194,645.04)
Other Presbytery Receipts	\$2,865.00	\$7,262.01	\$40,064.66
Total Presbytery Receipts	\$349,087.05	\$376,802.04	\$391,661.32
Camp Whitman Receipts			
Camper & Group Fees	\$116,000.00	\$116,793.00	\$112,607.10
Presbytery of Geneva Mission	\$137,777.95	\$136,714.71	\$194,645.04
Other Donations	\$31,800.00	\$40,878.84	\$34,395.38
Total Camp Receipts	\$285,577.95	\$294,386.55	\$341,647.52
Total Giving & Other Receipts	\$634,665.00	\$671,188.59	\$733,308.84
Ministry & Mission (Expenditures)			
Presbytery Expenses			
Total Personnel	\$186,851.19	\$291,597.03	\$334,263.67
Staff Allocated to Camp Whitman	(\$117,477.95)	(\$115,021.78)	(\$151,216.37)
Total Mission	\$74,365.00	\$69,271.61	\$105,916.58
Total Operations	\$151,980.00	\$148,149.37	\$155,638.39
Total Presbytery Expenses	\$295,718.24	\$393,996.23	\$444,602.27
Camp Whitman Expenses			
Year-Round Staff Salaries	\$117,477.95	\$115,021.78	\$151,216.37
Camp Summer Salaries	\$87,200.00	\$96,411.54	\$93,678.60
Program Expenses	\$39,000.00	\$42,079.15	\$42,964.10
Operating Expenses	\$41,900.00	\$40,874.08	\$45,933.16
Total Camp Whitman Expenses	\$285,577.95	\$294,386.55	\$333,792.23
*** Debt Reduction ***	\$53,368.81	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Ministry & Mission	\$634,665.00	\$688,382.78	\$778,394.50
Budget Surplus / (Shortage)	\$0.00	(\$17,194.19)	(\$45,085.66)
Membership	6,000	6,335	6,616
Presbytery per capita	\$32.93	\$33.03	\$33.30
Synod per capita	\$4.00	\$3.95	\$3.90
GA per capita	\$7.07	\$7.02	\$6.80
Total per capita	\$44.00	\$44.00	\$44.00