

*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 Tuesday March 28, 2017 at the United Church of Phelps, Phelps, New York.

CONVENING

Elder Joann Braun, 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 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Austin, Amy Loving – <i>Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca #9</i>	P	P			
Baker, Kirk – <i>Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)</i>	A	P			
Bhasker, Stanley – <i>Bath, Bath</i>	Ex	Ex			
Crimmins, Betsey – <i>Elmira, First</i>	Ex	P			
Delhagen, Kyle – <i>Palmyra, Western (RCA, Formula of Agreement)</i>	A	P			
Donnan, Ellen – <i>Dundee, First / Junius, Junius</i>	P	Ex			
Frigard, Beth – <i>Big Flats (Interim)</i>	A	A			
Griffis, Katherine – <i>Hornell, United</i>	P	P			
Grohman, Deb – <i>Ontario, Ontario</i>	Ex	P			
Heimberger, Gail – <i>Sodus, First United</i>	P	P			
Incze, Bruce Imre – <i>Arkport</i>		P			
Kennedy, Glen – <i>Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)</i>	P	A			
Kerr, James – <i>Canandaigua, United</i>	A	P			
Lester, Donald – <i>Howard, Union*</i>	A	A			
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – <i>Geneva, First</i>	P	P			
McDonald, John – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	A	P			
Malles, Paul – <i>Penn Yan, First</i>	P	P			
Marr, Peter – <i>Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*</i>	A	A			
Mellgard, Rob – <i>Ovid Federated</i>	P	P			
Ntuala, Leah – <i>Seneca Falls, First</i>	A	P			
O'Leary, Lucinda – <i>Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*</i>	Ex	A			
Peebles, Cheryl – <i>Trumansburg, First Ulysses</i>	P	P			
Preisendanz, David – <i>Elmira, North</i>	A	P			
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	P	P			
Roth, Russ – <i>Huron, Huron</i>	Ex	P			
Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps, United Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P			
Ugoretz, Jeffrey – <i>Corning, First</i>	A	Ex			
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo, First (Temporary Supply)*</i>	P	P			
Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i>	A	P			
Yao, James – <i>Lodi, Lodi Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i>	Ex	P			
Yao, Nancy Meehan – <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor) Hammondspport, First (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P			
TOTAL PRESENT	13	23			
TOTAL EXCUSED	6	3			
TOTAL ABSENT	11	5			

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS, NY
March 28, 2017**

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 21	Sept 26	Nov 18
Ashby, David (V) <i>Interim Pastor, Honeoye Falls, NY</i>	P	P			
Campbell, Anne (AL)	A	A			
Delhagen, Harold (V) <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	A	Ex			
Duncan, Russell (V) <i>United Church of Salem, Salem, VT (UCC)</i>	Ex	Ex			
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) <i>Robinson Memorial PC, Syracuse, NY</i>	P	P			
Haines, Todd (AL)	A	A			
Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A	Ex			
McCollister, Dan (AL)	A	A			
Roth, Marjorie (V) <i>Chaplain, Friendly Home, Rochester, NY</i>	A	P			
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	Ex	Ex			
Warrington, Karl (AL)	A	A			
Weaver, Cindy (AL)	P	P			
TOTAL PRESENT	3	4			
TOTAL EXCUSED	2	4			
TOTAL ABSENT	7	5			

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 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Barnard, David	Ex	Ex			
Bartel, Joanne	Ex	Ex			
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex	Ex			
Coffman, Fred	Ex	Ex			
Courtney, Philip	Ex	P			
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex	Ex			
Crego, Peter	Ex	Ex			
Edwards, Sam	Ex	P			
Elder, John	Ex	Ex			
Farrell, Nancy	Ex	Ex			
Flaherty, Scott	Ex	Ex			
Gerling, Jim	Ex	Ex			
Gould, John	Ex	Ex			
Hicks, James	Ex	Ex			
Hood, Kenneth	Ex	Ex			
Husted, Susan	Ex	Ex			
Johnson, Timothy	P	P			
Karr-Lyon, Beverly	P	Ex			
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex	Ex			
Kilgore, David	P	P			
Knight, Jonathan	Ex	Ex			
Magley, Fred	Ex	Ex			
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex	Ex			
Montgomery, Tom	Ex	Ex			
Murray, Virginia	Ex	Ex			
Newman, James	Ex	Ex			
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex	Ex			
Price, Richard	Ex	Ex			
Rochelle, Robert	Ex	P			
Teller, Gailey	Ex	Ex			
Tennies, Herb	P	Ex			
Tyrrell, Jamie- <i>Interim, Atlanta</i>	Ex	Ex			
Valk, John	Ex	Ex			
TOTAL PRESENT	4	5			

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS, NY
March 28, 2017**

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS WITH VOICE AND VOTE (Ministers of another Denomination or another Presbytery who are serving Presbyterian Churches in the Presbytery of Geneva)

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Boswell, the Rev. Bronwen (<i>Temporary Transitional Leader / Presbytery of Western New York</i>)	P	P			
Elfond, the Rev. Cheryl Ann (<i>Elmira, North / Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley</i>)	A	A			
Lostetter, the Rev. Robin (<i>Presbytery of Pittsburgh</i>)	A	A			
Shevlin, the Rev. Linda (<i>Naples, Trinity Federated / United Methodist Church</i>)	A	A			
Stuber, the Rev. Walter (<i>Wolcott / Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	A	P			
TOTAL PRESENT	1	2			
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0			
TOTAL ABSENT	4	3			

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS (Ministers of another denomination or another presbytery who serve the Presbytery of Geneva in roles other than pastor of a particular church. **VOICE, NOT VOTE**)

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (<i>Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	P	P			
TOTAL PRESENT	1	1			
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0			

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
Addison, Addison	A		A		
Almond Union	A	Michelle Serra			
Andover, First	A		A		
Arkport, First	A	Regie Stover			
Atlanta, Atlanta	A	Bessie Tyrell			
Bath, First	P		A		
Benton, Bellona	P		A		
Big Flats, First	A		A		
Burdett, Burdett	A		A		
Canandaigua, United	A		A		
Canisteo, Canisteo	P	Barbara Stephens			
Cohocton, First	A		A		
Corning, First	A		A		
Dundee, First	P		A		
Elmira, First	P	Greg Lamb			
Elmira, Lake Street	A		A		
Elmira, North	P	Jeff Richards			
Elmira, Westminster	A		A		
Fayette, W. Fayette	A		A		
Geneva (1)	P	Chris Gerling			
Geneva (2)	P	Bette Schubert			
Hammondsport, First	A		A		
Hector, First	A		A		
Hornell, United	P	Jim Varner			
Horseheads, First	P		A		
Howard, Howard Union	A		A		
Huron, Huron	P	Lois Wafler			

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS, NY
March 28, 2017**

Ithaca, First	A		A			
Jasper, Jasper	A		A			
Junius, Junius	Ex	Kristi Ward				
Lodi, Lodi	P	Martha Cherwak				
Lyons, First	A	Tracy Rankert				
Marion, United	A		A			
Moreland, Moreland	A		A			
Naples, Trinity Fed.	P	Don Braun				
Newark, Park	P	Robert Hanson				
Oaks Corners	A		A			
Ontario, First	A		A			
Ovid Federated	P	Roberta Morris				
Painted Post, United	A		A			
Palmyra, East Palmyra	A	Philip R. Opdyke				
Palmyra, Western	A		A			
Penn Yan, First	A	Sue Goodrich				
Phelps, United	P		A			
Prattsburg, First	A		A			
Pulteney, First	A		A			
Red Creek	P	Ginny Kachurak				
Rock Stream	A	Gary Jones				
Romulus	A		A			
Seneca Falls, First	A		A			
Seneca, Seneca #9	A		A			
Shortsville, First	A		A			
Sodus, First United	A	Jim Hopkins				
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	A	Tom Bailey				
Trumansburg, First of Ulysses	P	Ginny Miller				
Waterloo, First	A	Ruth Eads				
Watkins Glen, First	A		A			
Weston, Weston	P		A			
Williamson	A		A			
Wolcott	P	Carol Merrell				
TOTAL PRESENT	20	25				
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	0				
TOTAL ABSENT	39		36			

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

(Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Anderson, Rob	Penn Yan	222 nd GA Commissioner	Ex	P			
Andrews, Priscilla	Elmira, Lake	COM	P	A			
Baker, Phoebe		Nominating Chair	P	P			
Beals, Steven	West Fayette	CRE	A	P			
Braun, Joann	Naples, Fed	Moderator	P	P			
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	Ex	P			
Colvin, Donna	Ovid	Synod Commissioner	A	A			
Erb, Milt		Presbytery Treasurer	A	A			
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A	A			
Frost, Carleen		CRE	Ex	P			
Gingerich, John	Wolcott	CRE / CPM Chair	P	P			
Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	P	Ex			
Peek, Donald	Canisteo	CRE	P	A			
Reynolds, Ellen	Geneva	General Council	P	P			
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE	A	A			
Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE / Moderator	Ex	P			

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS, NY
March 28, 2017**

Werts, Linda		P.W Representative	Ex	P			
TOTAL PRESENT			7	10			
TOTAL EXCUSED			5	1			
TOTAL ABSENT			5	6			

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency
Elder Linda Badger Becker	Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Transitional Leader Nominee

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)

Includes CREs not serving churches

Gail Farnham	Ithaca / Presbyterian Disaster Agency representative
Rosanna Bates	Pulteney
Marc Smith	Seneca Falls / Anti-Racism Task Force

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	21	33			
Total Elder Commissioners Present	27	35			
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+ 6	+2			
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**	22	13			
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***	39	35			
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	29	22			
Total Registered Visitors	17	3			
Total Registered Attendance****	66	71			

* Includes Corresponding Members with voice and vote. Does not include Corresponding Members, with voice, not vote. Includes Validated, At-large, and Honorably Retired

** Does not include Corresponding Members with voice only; and Honorably Retired Ministers

*** Includes churches marked "excused"; does **not** include Additional Elder Commissioners, as they are not elected by sessions.

**** Includes Corresponding Members without vote

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

(Approval of Docket)

The presbytery VOTED to approve the docket for the meeting:

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Call to Order/Presbytery convened with prayer -Joann Braun, Moderator
 - Declaration of a Quorum
 - Enrollment of Corresponding Members
 - Welcome of New Elder Commissioners
 - Approval of the Docket
 - Approval of Minutes: Stated meeting of January 28, 2017
 - Welcome from the Host Church
 - Appoint people to offer a resolution of thanks
 - Announcements
- Report of the Stated Clerk - Val Fowler, stated clerk
- Presbyterian Disaster Assistance – Gail Farnham
- 10:15 a.m. Personnel Committee, Cindy Weaver- introduction to the Transitional Leader:
Elder Linda Badger-Becker
- 10:30 a.m. Budget & Finance
- 10:40 a.m. Committee on Ministry, A.J. Tierson and Ellen Donnan co-chairs

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS, NY
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- 10:50 a.m. Camp Whitman Report & Presentation
- 11:10 a.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry - John Gingerich
- 11:20 a.m. Anti Racism Task Force Report
- 11:30 a.m. Worship - Anti-Racism Task Force
- 12:15 p.m. Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
- 1:00 p.m. Return to the Sanctuary
- 1:05 p.m. General Council, Ellen Reynolds
GA Amendments, Bronwen Boswell
Hedgesville Church Report - Larry Bates
Dismiss the Administrative Commission, with thanks
Approve request to send the Hedgesville Communion set to Montreat, NC
- 1:40 p.m. Presbyterian Women - Disaster preparedness, Linda Werts
- 1:50 p.m. Synod Mission and Ministry Commission
- 2:00 p.m. Discipleship and Spiritual Development Growth Team, John McDonald
- 2:10 p.m. Nominating Committee, Phoebe Baker
- Presentation to Bronwen Boswell, Ellen Reynolds and Joann Braun
Resolution of Thanks
Adjournment and closing Prayer - Vice-Moderator, Nancy Meehan Yao

(Enrollment of Corresponding Members)

The presbytery VOTED to enroll the following persons as Corresponding Members:
Elder Linda Badger Becker (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Transitional Leader Nominee)

(Welcome of New Elder Commissioners)

The presbytery welcomed new and first-time elder commissioners from the following congregations:
Waterloo Rock Stream Newark Wolcott Arkport

(Welcome to the Presbytery)

A. J. Tierson, Pastor, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of the United Church of Phelps.

(Resolution of Thanks)

The Moderator appointed the Rev. Tim Johnson to prepare a *Resolution of Thanks*, to be presented at the end of the meeting.

(Announcements & Sharing)

Opportunity was given for persons to provide announcements for the presbytery.

STATED CLERK REPORT

Stated Clerk Action Items

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Privilege of Voice)

1. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will be making or participating in reports to the presbytery.

(Minutes, January 28, 2017)

2. **Approve** the Minutes of the January 28, 2017 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, held at Memorial Presbyterian Church, Bellona, NY

Items for Presbytery's Information

**Stated Clerk Information Items
(Ordination Anniversaries)**

A. The following are the significant ordination anniversaries of ministers that will occur this year (listed in 5-year increments):

10 years (2007)

The Rev. Leah Ntuala (October 21, 2007 – Presbytery of Muskingum Valley)

20 years (1997)

The Rev. Joann Bartel (March 23, 1997 – Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley)

The Rev. Janice Fitzgerald (December 12, 1997 – Presbytery of Genesee Valley)

The Rev. Cheryl Peoples (December 14, 1997 – Presbytery of Memphis)

25 years (1992)

The Rev. Richard Price (March 22, 1992 – Presbytery of Geneva)

30 years (1987)

The Rev. Stanley Bhasker (April 19, 1987 – Presbyterian Church of South India)

The Rev. Virginia Murray (July 12, 1987 – Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley)

35 years (1982)

The Rev. David Ashby (August 1, 1982 – Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse)

The Rev. Scott Flaherty (April 23, 1982 – Presbytery of Genesee Valley)

40 years (1977)

The Rev. Glen Kennedy (May 8, 1977 – Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse)

45 years (1972)

The Rev. Peter Crego (May 14, 1972 – Presbytery of Utica)

The Rev. David Kilgore (March 26, 1972 – Presbytery of Redstone)

50 years (1967)

The Rev. Timothy Johnson (May 28, 1967 – Presbytery of Lake Huron)

Over 50 years

The Rev. Jim Hicks (**51 years**, July 29, 1966 – Presbytery of The Western Reserve)

The Rev. Sam Edwards (**52 years**, May 23, 1965 – Presbytery of Central Washington)

The Rev. Gilmore Creelman (**54 years**, June 18, 1963 – Presbytery of Mahoning)

The Rev. John Valk (**56 years**, October 15, 1961 – Presbytery of Newark)

The Rev. John Elder (**57 years**, May 20, 1960 – Presbytery of Northern New England)

The Rev. Herb Tennes (**59 years**, May 14, 1959)

The Rev. Dean Bemower (**65 years**, June 15, 1952 – Presbytery of Boston)

The Rev. Fred Coffman (**67 years**, July 1, 1950 – Presbytery of Philadelphia)

The Rev. Fred Magley (**69 years**, October 13, 1948 – Presbytery of Newark)

PRESBYTERIAN DISASTER ASSISTANCE

The moderator welcomed Gail Farnham, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY; and a member of the Presbyterian Disaster Agency National Response Team. She described the breadth of the work that the PDA accomplishes world-wide. She noted that in the United States the work of the National Response Team is always by invitation of the presbytery within whose bounds a disaster event has occurred. In addition to a ministry of presence within days of a tragedy, the Team always helps with developing long-term recovery plans.

Funding for the Presbyterian Disaster Agency comes from two sources: (1) Individual gifts from persons or groups, and (2) A portion of the One Great Hour of Sharing Offering receipts. Gail honored the consistent support of the One Great Our of Sharing by the congregations of the Presbytery of Geneva.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Cindy Weaver, Chair, presented the report of the Personnel Committee.

Cindy introduced the members of the Transitional Leader Search Team:

- Elder Bob Seem, Chair
- Elder Rosanna Bates
- The Rev. David Ashby
- The Rev. Betsey Crimmins

Bob Seem briefly recounted the work of the Search Team over the past year. From all of the applicants, the Team interviewed five candidates, two of whom were brought to the presbytery for on-site interviews.

Bob introduced the person whom they unanimously recommended as the nominee for the position of Transitional Leader (two year term), and who was enthusiastically approved by the General Council: Elder Linda Badger Becker. Linda served the Presbytery of Genesee Valley for nineteen years. Most recently served as Transitional Leader for the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee and for the Presbytery of Western Reserve. She lives in Rochester, NY.

Linda briefly addressed the presbytery. She noted that in her transitional work she has encouraged presbyteries to adopt an attitude that rather than “doing” different things in a period of transition, they open themselves to “being” different. For external change to be effective, the starting point is openness to internal change: who we are and why we do what we do. Her intention is to visit congregations and working groups of the presbytery, for listening and encouragement, support and collaboration, and concluded by saying that a core aspect of her leadership style is, “It is not about me; it is about you.”

The Search Team expressed appreciation for the support of the presbytery staff, the General Council, and the Budget & Finance Committee. That support is a tangible and positive symbol of how the presbytery is moving forward.

The presbytery expressed appreciation for the Search Team and welcome for the Transitional Leader.

Cindy Weaver offered prayer.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim Johnson, Chair presented the report of the Budget & Finance Committee.

He noted that the presbytery enjoyed a \$36,000 surplus in 2016. However, the unremitted Per Capita apportionments and unremitted Mission Giving totaled almost \$26,000—effectively reducing the surplus to \$10,000. That amount—by prior action of the presbytery—will be dedicated to the presbytery’s debt reduction. He encouraged sessions to become current with their 2016 commitments, if at all possible.

In the coming year, the Budget & Finance Committee is hoping to provide guidance to sessions and congregations with regard to “when to remit” contributions. The hope is to encourage congregations to develop and to communicate to the Committee a regular schedule of remittance.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

A. J. Tierson, co-chair, presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

FOR PRESBYTERY’S ACTION:

The Presbytery VOTED to:

(Dundee / Administrative Commission)

Appoint the following persons to serve as an Administrative Commission to come alongside the session of First Presbyterian Church, Dundee, NY as the session considers the sale of the church building and property:

- Elder Dick Schied, CRE
- The Rev. Jim Hicks, HR
- Elder Kerm Bossard
- The Rev. Paul Malles

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**UNITED CHURCH OF PHELPS, NY
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- Elder Donna Colvin

(Transfer of Membership / the Rev. Bryan Bond)

Approve transferring the membership of the Rev. Bryan Bond to the Presbytery of Arkansas, effective March 28, 2017.

FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

(Waterloo / the Rev. Sarah West)

1. **Approve** renewal of the Temporary Supply Contract (almost 5/8 time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, NY and the Rev. Sarah West, effective January 1, 2017 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	22,000.00
Housing	7,700.00
Pension & Benefits	3,080.00
SECA	1,759.50
Study leave	650.00

Total increase in time: 5 hours/week

Total package increase: \$6,269.50

(Addison / waiver)

2. **Approve** the Temporary Supply Contract (1/4 time) between the session of Addison Presbyterian Church, Addison, NY and the Rev. Peter Marr with a waiver of the SECA requirement, effective January 1, 2017 at the following terms

Cash Salary	3,035.00
Housing	4,262.00
Pension & Benefits	9,141.00
Study leave	250.00
Travel expenses at current IRS rate, vouchered	

Vacation: one month a year, including 4 Sundays

Two weeks a year, including 2 Sundays

(Red Creek / Ordination)

3. **Grant** Elder Carleen Frost, moderator / pulpit supply / almost CRE, the authority to ordain elders for Red Creek Presbyterian Church, Red Creek, NY during 2017. This action is a one-time action for the current year only, and is not deemed by the COM to be a precedent.

(Canisteo / Donald Peek, CRE)

4. **Approve** the CRE Contract between the session of Canisteo Presbyterian Church, Canisteo, NY and Elder Donald Peek, CRE effective January 1, 2017 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	10,000.00
Housing	9,515.00
Pension & Benefits / SECA	9,000.00
Study leave	375.00

Vacation: 31 days a year including 4 Sundays

Study leave: two weeks per year including 2 Sundays

(Burdett /Elder Richard Evans, CRE)

5. **Approve** the Commissioned Ruling Elder agreement between the session of the Burdett Presbyterian Church, Burdett, NY and Elder Richard Evans, CRE effective January 1, 2017 at the following terms:

Base Salary	\$4,262.00
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Housing Allowance	7,915.00
In lieu of pension	4,444.00
Study Leave	250.00

Travel expenses at current IRS rate.
Vacation: one month per year, including 4 Sundays
Study Leave: two weeks per year, including 2 Sundays

6. **Grant** a waiver of the requirement to provide the SECA offset as part of the terms of call.

(Hammondsport / COM Task Force)

7. **Appoint** the following persons as a Task Force to work with the session:
- The Rev. Ellen Donnan
 - The Rev. A.J. Tierson
 - Elder Priscilla Andrews, CRE
 - The Rev. Val Fowler, stated clerk (ex-officio)

The task force will visit with the session and with Dick Schied about the proposal transmitted to the Committee.

Co-chair Tierson noted that the Committee on Ministry and the Committee on Preparation for Ministry are collaborating on an event designed to provide information and encouragement to persons who may be contemplating being commissioned to the Pulpit Supply List and/or to serve communion upon the invitation of sessions. Further information will be provided in time for the May 20, 2017 presbytery meeting.

He called attention to the report of the Small Church Network (a group developed by the Committee on Ministry), provided in the materials for this meeting. The Network has planned an event on Saturday April 22, 2017, 9:30-11:30 a.m. at the Penn Yan church. This event will be a first time gathering for listening and sharing and for developing future opportunities for strengthening the ministries of our many churches of fewer than 75 members.

Liaison Assignments (as of March COM meeting):

Jim Varner: Almond, Andover, Arkport, Howard Union, Canisteo
Ellen Donnan: Newark, Red Creek
Kirk Allen: Addison, Big Flats, Elmira Westminster, Painted Post, Jasper
Jane Winters: Elmira North, Elmira Lake Street & Fusion on Fire, Spencer, Elmira First, Horseheads
Jim Hicks: Ovid, Watkins Glen, Ithaca
Kerm Bossard: Trumansburg, Hector, Lodi, Burdett
Stanley Bhasker: Corning, Corning Chinese Christian Church, Cohocton, Hornell
AJ Tierson: Palmyra Western
Priscilla Andrews: Rock Stream, Bath, Pultney, Penn Yan, Hammondsport, Weston
Nancy Meehan Yao: Lyons, Geneva, Phelps, Romulus, Oaks Corners
Bill Fox: Huron, Wolcott, Ontario Center, Sodus, Canandaigua
Rob Mellgard: Seneca Falls, Waterloo, West Fayette, Bellona, Seneca #9
Carol Merrell: Marion, East Palmyra, Shortsville, Junius
Dick Schied: Dundee, Moreland, Naples, Atlanta, Prattsburgh

CAMP WHITMAN REPORT and PRESENTATION

Elder Lea Kone, Director of Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, presented the report of the Camp. The presentation included:

- The Camp Schedule for 2017
- New opportunities being offered this year:
 - A counselor-in-training program for the Pine Camp (for persons with developmental and physical disabilities)
 - A Confirmation Week, to be directed by the Rev. Colin Pritchard
 - Continuation of the Mission Base Camp program (4 congregations from 3 presbyteries have already committed to participating; another congregation will participate during Week 3 of the summer program)

- The outstanding work and enthusiasm of the Camp Advisory Board (5 members from Geneva; 4 members from Genesee Valley). The Board is diligently reflecting on the “Why?” of the ministry of Camp Whitman, which undergirds the “What?” and “How?” of the ministry. The Board is focusing on:
 - The strengths and weaknesses of the camp, and how best to serve the community in the future (including thinking outside the box)
 - Paying attention and planning for needed facility improvements
 - Developing more opportunities for young adult, adult, and family programs/retreats
- Currently, the Director and Board are seeking to fill the following positions:
 - Camp Nurse
 - Kitchen Staff
 - 2 Counselors
 - 2 Chaplains

Lea concluded with an observation that arises out of her own thinking about the importance of the camping experience:

During a camping week, a camper will be awake and experiencing camp activities for about 75 hours (15 hours a day, for 5 days). This does not seem like a lot of time. But in their local church, if a camper were in church 52 Sundays a year and a few other activities in the life of the church, the aggregate of contact time would be around 75 hours, spread over a full year.

75 hours in one week is a lot of time, and can have a profound impact on the life of a camper. “Graduates” of Camp Whitman—and I myself am one—will tell you that the Camp Whitman experience is a very significant part of their spiritual development and their ability to provide leadership in the years following camp. The camp experience does not and should not replace the yearly experience in the local church; the 75 hours in a camping week augments the camper’s spiritual growth.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

John Gingerich, chair, reported concerning Inquirer Matthew Derrenbacher, a senior student at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. He has discerned that his call is not as a Teaching Elder. Therefore, the Committee on Preparation for Ministry has concurred with Matthew Derrenbacher’s request to be dismissed from the candidacy process.

DOCKET CHANGE

The presbytery noted and celebrated that at this point in the meeting, the presbytery was 40 minutes ahead of the docket.

The presbytery VOTED to approve changing the docket to allow the following reports to occur prior to the report of the Anti-Racism Task Force:

- Presbyterian Women
- Synod Mission & Ministry Commission
- Discipleship & Spiritual Growth Team

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Linda Werts, president of the Presbyterian Woman of the Presbytery of Geneva presented the report.

(Birthday Offering Grant)

Linda celebrated that the Presbyterian Women received a \$100,000 Birthday Offering Grant for the continued work to build classrooms for a Girl’s School in northeastern Southern Sudan. The grant has been transmitted and work has begun. Two of the projected four classrooms have been built. Linda expressed gratitude to God that the area where the school is located has remained conflict-free.

(Light Up Sudan)

Every girl in the girls school has been provided with a solar lantern, through the “Light Up Sudan” project. Linda reminded the presbytery that the project encourages people to purchase lanterns as a donation to the school. So far, 200 lanterns have been purchased and 150 of those lanterns donated to students.

In the past year, about \$700 in surplus lantern donations was received. Presbyterian Women dedicated those surplus phones to providing irrigation lines for the community gardens around the girl's school

(Global Exchange, Indonesia)

Virginia Champlin has been selected as a delegate to the Presbyterian Women Global Exchange to Indonesia later this year. Presbyterian Women have planned a fund-raising event, to support Virginia's trip: **Saturday June 4, 2017 (location to be determined)**. The event will include food and music (provided by Val Fowler), and an opportunity to be generous in supporting this wonderful opportunity.

(Spring Gathering)

The Spring Gathering of the Presbyterian Women of Geneva Presbytery will be held on May 5, 2017 at Ovid Federated Church.

SYNOD MISSION & MINISTRY COMMISSION

Virginia Champlin presented the following report of the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission.

Synod of the Northeast Mission and Ministry Commission

January 27-28 at Stony Point Conference Center

30 attended: 13 Presbyteries represented, 1 Young Adult Advisory Delegates, 2 Racial Ethnic Caucus, Presbyterian Women Representative, 5 staff

- Mission Working Group approved Innovation Grants and Campus Ministry
 - *Trinity Summer Youth Academy Summer Camp* (Newark Presbytery) to support their Session approved ministry in feeding their church school members, youth choir members, and the unchurched youth. They empower their youth for success by being an inclusive and caring faith-based harbor for all of their youth. \$5,000 over 2 years
 - *Institute of Music* (Elizabeth) to support their partnership between United and IMC to enhance the artists expression appreciation of community youth through economically accessible, high-quality arts training in a creative and nurturing, out-of-school environment. \$10,000 over 2 years
 - *Sabbath House* (Monmouth) to support their center for sacred activism and spiritual companionship. \$24,000 over two years
 - *Hudson Church Without Walls* (Albany) to support their experiment of asking the community, "Where is God?" through field trips, public liturgies, mission that is not place-based, unconventional worship spaces, new forms of worship, and a small group that meets at a local coffee shop/bar, also where their Pastor currently keeps her office hours. \$18,000
 - *The Circle of Inspiration* (Palisades) to support their mission project, seeking to provide resources and services to individuals who have spent time incarcerated and are now seeking to re-enter society. \$28,000 over two years
 - *Boston Food Justice Young Adult Volunteer Program* (Boston) to seek to engage local Presbyterian congregations in bringing healthy and sustainably-grown food to all people through the leadership of young adults in their midst. \$4,000
 - *Glenwood Life Center* (Long Island) to support United Adult Ministries which offers older adults hope, through expanding opportunities and practical services, to live confidently in today's world. \$17,000 over 2 years
 - *Camp at the Eastward* (Northern New England) to provide a pastoral presence to the people of rural Maine is a goal for the worshipping community of Sparrows Nest and Camp at the Eastward to come together to seek innovation ways to worship, bringing God's love and grace to an impoverished community. \$25,000 over 3 year
 - *Hispanic Youth Cohort* for 15 congregations within NYC, Elizabeth, West Jersey, and Long Island Presbyteries for a three-year pronged Emerging Leaders Forum, for a Spiritual Formation Retreat, Faith and Social Justice Event, and seed monies for a summer domestic mission trip. \$5,000
 - *Undoing Racism Program* (Rendall Memorial PC-NYC) \$5,000
 - *Stony Brook University* (Long Island) \$5,000 over two years
- The Administrative Working Group moved
 - To get out of the loan business
 - Negotiate with the Vandesall Collective for short term continuing their services for communication
 - Continue to work on staffing restructure
- The Network Working Group
 - *Clean Climate Network* with initial plans for at least one person per Presbytery attend a conference and to continue to work on Clean Climate
 - *Live Wire Network* includes Emerging Gospel, New Worship Communities, Fellowships, New Church Development
 - Approved further funding for *Prison Ministry Network*

- *Coaching Network* continues with great accolades and success. They are about to the end of being funded through the Network Working Group. Other funds will be sought.
- *New Beginnings Network* will perform assessment for Congregations and then follow up implementation.
- *Meditation Network* continues and is looking at expanding its members

- Anti-Racism
 - Will follow suggestion of the GA Co-Moderators (One Church, One Book) “Waking up White, Explores White Privilege” by Debby Irving
 - Exploring Sankofa Trip

- A report from COR (Committee on Representation) was heard

- The Robert Washington Scholars were introduced: The Revs. *Hyon Kim* (Executive Presbytery/Stated Clerk of Eastern Korean Presbtery); *Mario Bolivar* (Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery); and *Terri Ofori* (Newark Presbytery & Chaplin of Bloomfield College).

- Presbytery Moderators (& two Presbytery leaders) Convention: March 3-4 at The Desmond

- Next meeting: April 28-29 in Albany

- Save the Date: September 22-23 “Come to the Table” at Stony Point

- To keep informed about Synod, go to Synod Web site (synodne.org), at the bottom of any page on right side is a “Join Newsletter” tab. Sign up!

Virginia noted that she, Joann Braun, Ellen Reynolds, and Ellen Donnan attended the recent synod convention for learning and collaboration. Among the attendees were the moderators of the 24 presbyteries of the Synod of the Northeast.

The next *Come to the Table* event will be held September 22-23, 2017 at Stony Point Conference Center.

DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM

John McDonald and Kyle Delhagen, co-chairs, reported on the work of the Discipleship & Spiritual Growth Team. Other members of the Team are Kirk Baker and Ellen Reynolds.

The Team was formed by the General Council in response to a desire that the presbytery provide leadership in the areas of Christian Education and Spiritual Growth. The Team has been working in the following areas:

- **Clarifying a Mission Statement for the Team:** The statement will reflect that the Team is empowered to help larger and smaller congregations in the areas of spiritual growth/discipleship and education, with the aim of nurturing disciples of all ages on their spiritual journey.
- **Exploring upcoming opportunities for the presbytery:**
 - The Team wants to identify the colleges and universities within the bounds of the Presbytery of Geneva, and to explore ways in which to connect with the 2-year and 4-year colleges. They will connect with the Synod of the Northeast Chaplaincy Network.
 - The Team encourages referrals of persons to serve as Young Adult Advisory Delegate to the 223rd General Assembly (2018, St. Louis).
 - The Team will actively seek young adult participation in the *Come to the Table* event in September 2017.

REPORT: ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

Jane Winters presented the report. She introduced the current members of the Anti-Racism Task Force, in addition to herself:

Cindy Weaver	Leah Ntuala	Virginia Camplin	Marc Smith
Val Fowler	Bronwen Boswell		

The Task Force grew out of the experience of several members at the Anti-Racism workshops held in 2016 at the Synod Meeting, at Montreat Conference Center, and at the Annual Polity Conference of the Office of the General Assembly.

The General Assembly co-moderators have encouraged churches and presbyteries to participate in a “One Church, One Book” program, in which persons will read and reflect on a particular book: combining personal reflection with communal reflection. This is similar to the reading projects occurring in many cities (e.g. “What if Rochester Read . . .?”).

The Anti-Racism Task Force has chosen Debby Irving’s *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*. The Task Force encourages sessions and individuals to read *Waking Up White*, and to engaged in the reflections that follow each of the short chapters.

There will be two “come together” opportunities to engage with *Waking Up White*:

Saturday May 6, 2017 (location TBD, in the northern part of the presbytery)

Saturday June 3, 2017 (location TBD, in the southern part of the presbytery)

These will be guided conversations for interacting with the book, for mutual reflection, for listening and engaging. They will be hosted by the Rev. Val Fowler.

WORSHIP

The service of the Lord’s Supper was developed and led by members of the Anti-Racism Task Force. Leah Ntuala engaged the presbytery in a “privilege walk,” designed to demonstrate the power of racial privilege, a power that is often unrecognized. The Rev. A.J. Tierson and the Rev. Bronwen Boswell presided at the Table.

LUNCH

Moderator Joan Braun offered grace for the meal, and the presbytery recessed to the Fellowship Hall for lunch, provided by the United Church of Phelps.

RECONVENING

The presbytery reconvened, with vice-moderator Nancy Meehan Yao assuming leadership of the meeting.

GENERAL COUNCIL

Ellen Reynolds, Chair, presented the report of the General Council.

(Proposed Amendments to the *Constitution of the PCUSA*)

The presbytery VOTED to dedicate this portion of the meeting as a First Reading of the proposed amendments, with opportunity for questions and discussion; and to take action on the proposed amendments during the May 20, 2017 stated meeting at North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY. [The counted vote was approved, 28/21.]

Bronwen Boswell presented the proposed amendments and the presbytery engaged in discussion of several of the amendments.

16-A – Youth & Child Protection Policy

It is important to recognize that protection/safety policy addresses issues that are broader than a sexual misconduct policy (e.g. the issue of medications needed during an event; the issue of adult supervision in a variety of settings; the issue of access in multi-level buildings, etc.)

16-B – Parity in Committees of Councils other than Sessions

This proposal would allow for flexibility in the creation of committees, by encouraging parity of clergy and non-clergy “as equal as possible.” It will be important to keep in mind the different challenges of presbyteries: some presbyteries have very few churches; some presbyteries involve great distances).

16-C – Ordered Ministry Titles

This proposed amendment restores the title, “Minister of Word and Sacrament.” The proposed amendment includes the title, “Teaching Elder,” thus providing an option.

16-D – Renunciation of Jurisdiction

The proposed amendment provides the opportunity for a person who has renounced the jurisdiction of the PCUSA to engage in volunteer or paid service, but only unless and until the person rejoins the church through a local congregation and re-submits to the process in place when he/she renounced jurisdiction (e.g. the disciplinary process).

16-E – Certified Service Requirements

This proposal would eliminate reference to a “handbook” and replace it with the “requirements of a national certifying body.”

16-F – Responsibilities of Membership

This proposal would add “Care of God’s creation” to the list of the responsibilities of church membership.

16-G – Access to the Lord’s Table

The proposed amendment would provide for access to the Lord’s Table by non-baptized persons.

16-H – New Directory for Worship

The proposal will shorten the Directory (to 5 chapters, from 7 chapters); organize the Directory more logically and accessibly; and include new guidance (e.g. worship within the surrounding culture).

(Hedgesville)

The presbytery VOTED to:

Approve donating the communion ware of the Hedgesville Presbyterian Church (dissolved) to the Historical Society of the Montreat Conference Center.

Dismiss the Hedgesville Administrative Commission with appreciation and thanks.

PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Phoebe Baker, Chair, presented the report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee.

The presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons:

Ordination Exam Readers 2017:

Elder Ellen Reynolds
The Rev. Kirk Baker

Alternate: the Rev. David Kilgore, HR

To complete an unexpired term on the Committee on Preparation for Ministry:

The Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz, Class of 2018

Committee on Budget & Finance:

Elder Henry Stephens (Newark) – Class of 2019

The Nominating Committee continues to work on issuing invitations to serve as Vice-Moderator of the presbytery and a Member-At-Large of the General Council.

THANK-YOUS AND GOOD-BYES

The presbytery celebrated the service of the Rev. Bronwen Boswell as Temporary Transitional Leader, and the gifts and encouragement she has brought to the presbytery and its leaders. Joann Braun presented Bronwen with one of her famous cherry pies; Cindy Weaver presented a gift from the General Council, and Nancy Meehan Yao presented a gift of flowers on behalf of the presbytery.

The presbytery noted with sadness that this will be the last presbytery meeting for the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, as she has accepted a call to become the Associate General Presbyter for the Presbytery of Shenandoah

(Virginia). She will be assuming those duties on April 7, 2016. The presbytery honored her years of diligent service. Jim Yao will remain in the presbytery (and with the Hector and Lodi churches) until June 30, 2017.

Cindy Weaver led the presbytery in prayer.

Betsey Crimmins announced that the Synod of the Northeast has provided a new round of funding for the Synod Coaching Network.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Tim Johnson presented the Resolution of Thanks:

With a nod to an Old Testament writer:

To everything there is a time and a season, under heaven . . . even presbytery:

A time to arrive and a time for coffee and schmoozing.

A time then to be called to order.

A long time to sit and a shorter time to stand.

A time to take in, and a time to expel.

A time for reports and a time for worship.

A time to share lunch but not before a time to say grace.

A time to be engaged with times to daydream, too.

A time to welcome and a time to say goodbye.

What does it gain the presbytery for all this toil?

There is nothing better for us than to be happy here.

It is time now, then, to give thanks to God and to the fine folks here at the United Church of Phelps who served us so well. There is nothing better for us than to be happy and to do good while we are here.

Amen.

CLOSING

The presbytery VOTED to adjourn the meeting. Moderator JoAnn Braun offered the closing prayer.

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk

**Next Meeting of the Presbytery:
Tuesday May 20, 2017 ~ North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY**