

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT SEPTEMBER 19, 2015
First Presbyterian Church, Lyons, New York

[Meetings held on 06/02/2015, 07/07/2015 & 09/01/2015]

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The Committee VOTED to recommend that the presbytery:

(Watkins Glen/ the Rev. Beverly Carr-Lyon)

1. **Approve** the request of the Rev. Beverly Carr-Lyon and the First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, effective September 30, 2015.

(Honorably Retired Status)

2. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Beverly Carr-Lyon, effective September 30, 2015.

3. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. David Barnard, effective August 31, 2015.

(Transfer of Membership)

3. **Receive** the Rev. Robin Lostetter as a member of the Presbytery of Geneva, effective October 1, 2015.

4. **Request** transfer of membership of the Rev. Robin Lostetter from the Presbytery of Monmouth to the Presbytery of Geneva, effective October 1, 2015.

(The Rev. Herb Tennes / Pastor Emeritus)

5. **Approve** the request of the sessions of the Bellona and Seneca #9 churches to grant the status of Pastor Emeritus to the Rev. Herb Tennes, effective September 22, 2015.

(Fairville / Dissolution)

6. **Approve** the dissolution of the Fairville Presbyterian Church, Arcadia, NY effective September 22, 2015, at the request of the session and the congregation. [See supporting documents provided with the presbytery meeting docket.]

- The Fairville session indicated to the moderator, the Rev. Tim Johnson, that the congregation intended to leave their building, dissolve as a congregation, and worship at the local fire hall.
- Subsequent meetings were held with the session (Paul Salisbury), and with the Temporary Supply (Joshua Baker).
- A subsequent meeting with the session was held with Paul Salisbury and stated clerk pro-tem Val Fowler. During this meeting several options were presented, beyond simply walking away.
- In a follow up letter, the session made it clear that they and the congregation were intent on dissolving and leaving the property in the presbytery's hands.
- Congregation insurance continued through mid-September; the presbytery assumed insurance on the building at that time.
- The financial assets of the congregation have been duly transferred to the presbytery; determination is being made as to any specific restrictions on all or part of those funds. The amount is @ \$17,000.
- Plans are being made for assessment of the building and exploring options for its use (hopefully, sale).
- Joshua Baker will continue to serve the East Palmyra congregation as Temporary Supply.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

Acting on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva, the Committee VOTED to:

(Moderator Appointments)

1. **Appoint** the Rev. Tim Johnson, HR as moderator of the Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY, effective June 2, 2015.

2. **Appoint** the Rev. Jim Hicks at moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY, effective October 1, 2015.

3. **Appoint** Elder Paul Salisbury as moderator of session of the East Palmyra Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY effective September 2, 2015.

ACTIONS TO BE REPORTED TO PRESBYTERY AS INFORMATION

The Committee VOTED to:

(Committee on Ministry Minutes)

1. **Not to publish** the full minutes of Committee on Ministry meetings on the website. The public report of the Committee will be the report made to the presbytery during presbytery meetings.

Rationale:

The Committee unanimously agrees that the confidentiality of the Committee's work should be preserved.

The Committee will report to the presbytery through the Presbytery Report of the COM presented during the meetings of the presbytery: Items for Presbytery Action, Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery, and Information Items.

(Williamson / the Rev. Francis "Fran" Gasparri)

2. **Approve**, if the way be clear, the Stated Supply relationship (1/2 time) between the session of the Williamson Presbyterian Church, Williamson, NY and the Rev. Francis Gasparri, effective [insert date] at the following terms of call:

Williamson Presbyterian Church, Williamson, NY. The session has said that the church will compensate the Rev. Gasparri at \$5,000 above the minimum terms for such a call.

3. **Appoint** a Response Team to meet with the session of the First Presbyterian Church, Williamson, NY: Paul Salisbury (COM liaison), Russ Roth (moderator of session), Tim Johnson, and the stated clerk (staff support)

(Newark, Park / The Rev. Kirk Baker)

4. **Approve** the following change in the terms of call between the session of Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY and the Rev. Kirk Baker, Transitional Minister:

Cash Salary	34,739.00
Housing (35%)	18,076.00
Total Effective Salary	53,445.00
Pension/Medical (PCUSA)	21,302.00
SECA Offset	4,062.00
MSA (50% deductible)	525.00
Study Leave	1,000.00
Travel (IRS rate)	0.56/mile
Study Leave Time	14 days / 2 Sundays
Vacation Time	31 days / 4 Sundays

5. **Request** the congregation to prepare a Mission Statement. When the Committee on Ministry approves the Mission Statement, the congregation would be authorized to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

(Palmyra, Western / the Rev. Robin Lostetter)

6. **Approve** the Transitional Pastor Contract (full-time) between the session of Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY and the Rev. Robin Lostetter, effective October 1, 2015 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	20,000.00
Housing Allowance	30,000.00
Total Effective Salary	50,000.00
Automobile expense	5,500.00
Business/professional expense	3,515.00
SECA supplement	2,000.00
Continuing Education	5,000.00
Board of Pensions dues	17,896.00

Vacation: 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
Continuing Education: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

Reasonable moving expenses

7. **Grant** permission to the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, at the time deemed appropriate to the session.

(The Rev. Joanne Bartel / Ovid Federated)

8. **Approve** the Supply Pastor Contract (part-time) between the session of the Ovid Federated Church, Ovid, NY and the Rev. Joanne Bartel effective September 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016 at the following terms:

Worship Service -- \$75.00 per service, plus mileage
Contractual service -- \$20.00 per hour, plus mileage
Funeral Services for church members -- \$100.00, plus mileage
Other meetings not listed – \$20.00 per hour, plus mileage
One Sunday off per quarter, as requested

Moderate Church Board meetings, with the advice and counsel of the Chair of the Board
Conduct hospital visitations in Ithaca and other emergency visitations as requested/available.
Aid in the transition to an installed pastor.

(Search for Interim Pastors)

9. **Encourage** sessions who are seeking Interim Pastors to use the Church Leadership Connection process for seeking candidates. Through liaisons, the Committee on Ministry will provide support to the interim search process.

(Williamson / Response Team)

(Jasper / the Rev. David Barnard)

10. **Authorize** continuation of the Stated Supply Contract (1/4 time) between the session of Jasper Presbyterian Church, Jasper, NY and the Rev. David Barnard.

11. **Affirm** to the Board of Pensions that this exception is consistent with the ministry and mission of the Presbytery of Geneva, and **encourage** the Board of Pensions to approve it.

(Actions Related to Pastoral Searches)

12. **Approve** the Ministry Information Form for First Presbyterian Church, Arkport, NY; and **grant** permission to the the Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search for an installed pastor.

13. **Approve** the Mission Study report for Canisteo Presbyterian Church, Canisteo, NY; **encourage** the development of a Ministry Information Form; and **authorize** the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

14. **Grant** permission for the Ovid Federated Church, Ovid, NY to shift the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee to a Pastor Nominating Committee, upon completion of a Supply Pastor Contract.

(Pulpit Supply List)

15. **Amend** the Pulpit Supply Policy to state that persons who have completed the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School training and other authorized training for Commissioned Ruling Elders will be eligible to be placed on the Pulpit Supply list.

16. **Place** the name of Paul Yoder (CRCDS graduate) on the Pulpit Supply List.