

**Stated Meeting ~ Presbytery of Geneva
Tuesday November 10, 2015
The United Church of Painted Post, Painted Post, New York
The Rev. Glen Kennedy, 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 Tuesday November 10, 2015 at the United Church of Painted Post, Painted Post, 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 |
|---|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|
| Austin, Amy Loving – Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca #9 | Ex | P | P | P | P |
| Baker, Kirk – Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor) | P | A | P | P | P |
| Barnard, David – Jasper, Jasper (Stated Supply) | A | A | A | A | Retired |
| Bhasker, Stanley – Bath, Bath | P | Ex | P | Ex | P |
| 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 | P | P | Ex |
| Donnan, Ellen – Dundee, First / Junius, Junius | P | Ex | P | P | P |
| Duncan, Russell – Lyons, First | P | P | A | Ex | P |
| Dygart, Steve – Almond, Union of Churches | A | | | | |
| Elford, Cheryl Ann – Elmira, North | | | | | |
| Farrell, Nancy – Palmyra, Western | Ex | P | P | Retired | |
| Griffis, Katherine - Hornell | | | P | P | P |
| Grohman, Deb – Ontario, Ontario | P | P | A | Ex | P |
| Heimberger, Gail – Sodus, First United | Ex | P | P | P | P |
| Hicks, James – Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship | P | P | P | P | Ex |
| Karr-Lyon, Beverly – Watkins Glen, First | P | Ex | P | P | Retired |
| Kennedy, Glen – Painted Post, United (Stated Supply) | A | A | P | A | P |
| Kerr, James - Canandaigua, United | P | A | P | Ex | P |
| Knight, Jonathan – Horseheads, Horseheads | A | P | P | A | P |
| Lester, Donald – Howard, Union* | A | A | A | A | A |
| Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – Geneva, First | P | P | P | Ex | Ex |
| Loving Austin, Amy – Benton, Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca # 9 | Ex | P | P | P | P |
| McDonald, John – Ithaca, First | | | | | Corresp. |
| Malles, Paul – Penn Yan, First | P | P | Ex | P | P |
| Marr, Peter – Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)* | A | A | A | | A |
| Moore, Banu – Corning, First | Ex | Moved | | | |
| Moore, James – Corning, First | Ex | Moved | | | |
| Ntuala, Leah – Seneca Falls, First | P | P | A | Ex | P |
| O'Leary, Lucinda – Rock Stream (Stated Supply)* | A | A | A | P | A |
| Peeples, Cheryl – Trumansburg, First Ulysses | P | P | P | P | Ex |
| Price, Richard – Big Flats, Big Flats | A | A | A | A | A |

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**UNITED CHURCH OF PAINTED POST, NY
NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| Prong, Lee – <i>Williamson, Williamson (Interim)*</i> | P | Interim | Dissolved | | |
| Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – <i>Ithaca, Ithaca</i> | P | P | P | P | Ex |
| Roth, Russ – <i>Huron, Huron</i> | P | A | P | Ex | P |
| Shevlin, Linda – <i>Naples, Trinity</i> | | | | Ex | A |
| Smith, Paul – <i>Marion, Marion*</i> | A | A | A | A | A |
| Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps, United (Stated Supply) Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i> | P | A | P | P | P |
| Waters, Kathleen – <i>Elmira, North (Interim)</i> | A | Moved | | | |
| West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo, First (Temporary Supply)*</i> | P | P | Ex | A | P |
| Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i> | P | P | P | A | P |
| Yao, James – <i>Lodi, Lodi Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i> | P | P | P | P | P |
| Yao, Nancy Meehan – <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor) Hammondsport, First (Stated Supply)</i> | P | P | P | P | P |
| TOTAL PRESENT | 20 | 17 | 21 | 16 | 20 |
| TOTAL EXCUSED | 6 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 5 |
| TOTAL ABSENT | 15 | 11 | 9 | 8 | 6 |

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 | A | P | Ex |
| Campbell, Anne (AL) | | A | A | A | A |
| Davis, Joelle (AL) | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Renounced |
| Delhagen, Harold (V) <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i> | A | Ex | P | A | A |
| Fitzgerald, Janice (V) <i>Pultneyville, Reformed</i> | Ex | P | P | P | Ex |
| Haines, Todd (AL) | A | A | A | A | A |
| Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL) | A | P | A | P | A |
| McCollister, Dan (AL) | A | A | A | A | A |
| Roth, Marjorie (V) <i>Chaplain, Friendly Home, Rochester, NY</i> | P | A | P | Ex | A |
| Wareham, J. Christy (AL) | A | A | A | A | A |
| Warrington, Karl (AL) | A | A | A | A | A |
| TOTAL PRESENT | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 0 |
| TOTAL EXCUSED | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| TOTAL ABSENT | 6 | 6 | 8 | 6 | 8 |

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 | Ex | P | Ex |
| Bembower, Dean | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Bollinger, Zane | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Coffman, Fred | P | P | P | Ex | Ex |
| Creelman, Gilmore | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Crego, Peter | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Edwards, Sam | Ex | P | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Elder, John | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Farrell, Nancy | | | | Ex | Ex |
| Flaherty, Scott | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Gerling, Jim | Ex | Ex | P | Ex | P |
| Gould, John | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Hood, Kenneth | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Husted, Susan | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Johnson, Timothy | P | P | P | P | P |
| Karr-Lyon, Beverly | | | | | Ex |

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| | | | | | |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Kellam, Jeffrey | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Kilgore, David | P | P | P | P | P |
| Magley, Fred | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Meiser, Jr., Edward | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Montgomery, Tom | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Murray, Virginia | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | P |
| Newman, James | Ex | Ex | P | Ex | Ex |
| Otterbacher, Suzanne | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Outterson, Hugh | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Rochelle, Robert | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Teller, Gailey | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Tennies, Herb | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Tyrrell, Jamie— <i>Interim, Atlanta</i> | P | Ex | Ex | Ex | P |
| Valk, John | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| TOTAL PRESENT | 4 | 4 | 5 | 3 | 5 |

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 27 | Mar 14 | May 19 | Sept 19 | Nov |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| The Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond (<i>Elmira, North / Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley</i>) | | | | P | P |
| The Rev. Francis Gasparri (<i>Williamson / American Baptist Church</i>) | | | | | P |
| The Rev. Robin Lostetter (<i>Palmyra, Western / Presbytery of Pittsburgh</i>) | | | | | P |
| The Rev. Walter Stuber (<i>Wolcott / Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>) | Ex | Ex | P | Ex | P |
| TOTAL PRESENT | 1 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| TOTAL EXCUSED | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS (Ministers of another denomination or another presbytery who serve the Presbytery of Geneva in roles other than pastor of a particular church.)

| Name | Jan 27 | Mar 14 | May 19 | Sept 19 | Nov |
|---|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (<i>Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>) | P | P | P | P | P |
| TOTAL PRESENT | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| TOTAL EXCUSED | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

| Church Name | Jan 27 | Mar 14 | May 19 | Sept 19 | Nov |
|---------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|
| Addison | A | A | Bonny E. Moore | A | Bonny E. Moore |
| Almond | A | A | A | A | A |
| Andover | A | A | A | A | A |
| Arkport | A | Lorraine Glidden | Beth Haines-He | A | A |
| Bath | Kathleen Swan | A | Kathleen Swan | A | Larry Bates |
| Bellona | A | A | Janice Newby | Janice Newby | A |
| Big Flats | A | A | A | A | A |
| Burdett | A | A | A | A | A |
| Canandaigua | Ron Fulle | Ron Fulle | Ron Fulle | Ron Fulle | Ron Fulle |
| Canisteo | A | A | A | A | A |
| Cohocton | Michael Allen | A | A | A | A |
| Corning | A | Kirk Allen | A | Kirk Allen | A |
| Dundee | Ex | A | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| East Palmyra | A | A | A | A | A |
| Elmira, First | Rehanna Stanley | Rehanna Stanley | Rehanna Stanley | Gregg Lamb | Ex |
| Elmira, Lake Street | A | A | A | A | Alice Kain |
| Elmira, North | Jeff Richards | Jeff Richards | Jeff Richards | Jeff Richards | A |

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| | | | | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|------------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| Elmira, Westminster | A | A | A | A | A |
| Fairville | William Randolph | William Randolph | A | <i>Dissolved 09/19</i> | |
| Geneva (1) | Edwin Frick | Edwin Frick | Chris Gerling | Edwin Frick | Bill Fox |
| Geneva (2) | Bill Fox | Bill Fox | Edwin Frick | Bill Fox | Edwin Frick |
| Hammondsport | James Walling | James Walling | James Walling | James Walling | James Walling |
| Hector | A | A | Susan Rochell | Susan Rochell | Susan Rochell |
| Hedgesville | <i>Dissolved 01/27</i> | | | | |
| Hornell | A | Irene Schu | Cheryl Green | A | Cheryl Green |
| Horseheads | A | James Zearfoss | Jim Zearfoss | A | Jim Zearfoss |
| Howard | A | A | A | A | A |
| Huron | Linda Hayes | Lois Wafler | Lois Wafler | Lois Wafler | Linda Hayes |
| Ithaca | Micah Beck | Micah Beck | A | A | Micah Beck |
| Jasper | A | A | A | A | A |
| Junius | Kristy Ward | Kristi Ward | Ex | Kristi Ward | Ex |
| Lodi | A | Steven Frost | Martha Cherwak | Steven Frost | Martha Cherwak |
| Lyons | Tracy Rankert | Tracy Rankert | Ex | Tracy Rankert | Tracy Rankert |
| Marion | A | Connie Franks | A | Connie Franks | A |
| Moreland | A | A | Robert Bellman | Robert Bellman | Robert Bellman |
| Naples | A | A | Joann Braun | A | Joan Braun |
| Newark | Paul Salisbury | A | Paul Salisbury | A | Paul Salisbury |
| Oaks Corners | A | Unreadable | Ernest H. Day, Sr. | A | |
| Ontario Center | A | A | A | A | A |
| Ovid Federated | A | A | Roberta S. Morris | Roberta S. Morris | Roberta Morris |
| Painted Post | A | A | A | A | A |
| Palmyra | Philip Opdyke | Philip Opdyke | Terry Goodwin | Philip Opdyke | Philip Opdyke |
| Penn Yan | Sue Goodrich | Sue Goodrich | Sue Goodrich | Sue Goodrich | Ex |
| Phelps | A | A | Nan Clark | Nan Clark | Nan Clark |
| Prattsburg | Diane Muck | A | A | A | A |
| Pulteney | Harriette Potter | Harriette Potter | Harriet Potter | Harriette Potter | Harriette Potter |
| Red Creek | A | A | A | A | A |
| Rock Stream | A | A | A | A | A |
| Romulus | A | A | A | A | A |
| Seneca Falls | A | Susan Derr | A | A | A |
| Seneca #9 | A | A | A | A | A |
| Shortsville | A | A | A | A | A |
| Sodus | A | Jim Hopkins | A | Jim Hopkins | A |
| Spencer | C. Thomas Bailey | C. Thomas Bailey | C. Thomas Bailey | C. Thomas Bailey | A |
| Trumansburg | A | A | A | A | Joyce Yost |
| Waterloo | Helen Wadsworth | Joyce M. Yost | Ex | Ruth Marshall | A |
| Watkins Glen | A | A | A | Karen Rhodes | Karen Rhodes |
| West Fayette | A | A | A | A | A |
| Weston | Vera E. Dykes | A | A | Vera Dykes | Vera Dykes |
| Williamson | A | A | Josh Dorfner | Kevin Ginett | Kevin Ginett |
| Wolcott | A | Carol Merrell | Carol Merrell | Carol Merrell | A |
| TOTAL PRESENT | 22 | 26 | 27 | 27 | 25 |
| TOTAL EXCUSED | 1 | 0 | 4 | 1 | 4 |
| TOTAL ABSENT | 41 | 34 | 29 | 31 | 29 |

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

(Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

| Name | Church | Relationship | Jan 27 | Mar 14 | May 19 | Sept 19 | Nov |
|--------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------|----------------|--------|---------|-----|
| Alling, Kris | Trumansburg | General Council | P | A | P | P | P |
| Andrews, Priscilla | Elmira, Lake | CRE | Ex | Retired | | | |
| Beals, Steven | West Fayette | CRE | P | P | Ex | Ex | Ex |
| Champlin, Virginia | Geneva | SNE Min. & Mission | P | P | P | Ex | P |
| Colvin, Donna | Pulteney | SNE Comm. 2015 | P | P | P | P | P |
| Evans, Richard | Burdett | CRE | A | A | A | P | A |
| Novack, Joy | Romulus | CRE | A | P | A | A | P |
| Peek, Donald | Canisteo | CRE | A | A | P | P | P |
| Reynolds, Ellen | Geneva | General Council | P | P | P | A | P |
| Richmond, Lucille | Red Creek | CRE | A | A | A | P | A |
| Salisbury, Paul | Newark | COM Co-Chair | P | P | P | A | P |
| Schied, Dick | Weston | CRE | P | P | P | A | P |

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**UNITED CHURCH OF PAINTED POST, NY
NOVEMBER 10, 2015**

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL PRESENT | | 7 | 7 | 6 | 5 | 8 |
| TOTAL EXCUSED | | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 1 |
| TOTAL ABSENT | | 5 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 |

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

| Name | Presbytery / Agency |
|--------------------------|--|
| Candidate John McDonald | Candidate for Associate Pastor, Ithaca First (<i>Under Care, Presbytery of New Castle</i>) |
| The Rev. Bronwen Boswell | Synod Administrative Review Committee / Presbytery of Western New York |
| The Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz | Candidate for Pastor, Corning First (<i>Presbytery of New Brunswick</i>) |
| The Rev. Liang Ouyang | Pastor, Chinese Koinonia Missionary Fellowship, Corning, NY |

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)

Includes CREs not serving churches

| | |
|----------------|-------------|
| Rosanna Bates | Pulteney |
| Donna Fillmore | Addison |
| Mary Jane Peek | Pulteney |
| Barbara Dove | Lake Street |
| Cindy Weave | Ithaca |
| Milt Erb | Treasurer |
| Dorrie Erb | |

| SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING | Jan 27 | Mar 14 | May19 | Sept 19 | Nov |
|---|---------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|------------|
| Total Minister Commissioners Present* | 26 | 23 | 29 | 23 | 29 |
| Total Elder Commissioners Present | 28 | 35 | 31 | 33 | 32 |
| Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -) | +2 | +11 | +2 | + 10 | +3 |
| Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused** | 21 | 17 | 17 | 15 | 14 |
| Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders*** | 36 | 34 | 32 | 30 | 30 |
| Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors | 19 | 15 | 28 | 22 | 21 |
| Total Registered Visitors | 4 | 4 | 12 | 6 | 7 |

* 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"

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

(Corresponding Members – Voice / No Vote)

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

The Rev. Robin Lostetter, Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY (Presbytery of Pittsburgh)

The Rev. Francis Gasparri (American Baptist), Williamson Presbyterian Church, Williamson, NY

The Rev. Jauhura Shazer, Fusion on Fire (Elmira, Lakeside)

The Rev. John McDonald, Ithaca, First (Associate Pastor)

The Rev. Lynnette Sparks (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Rochester, Third; Synod Administrative Review Committee)

The Rev. Bronwen Boswell (Presbytery of Western New York, / Synod

(New Commissioners / Guests)

There were no first-time elder commissioners present.

The presbytery welcomed guests present for the meeting.

(Approval of Docket)

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

(Minutes of Previous Meeting)

The presbytery VOTED to approve the minutes of the September 19, 2015 stated meeting.

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH / RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Rev. Glen Kennedy welcomed the presbytery to The United Church of Painted Post, NY. He shared some of the history of the congregation, which is a federation of Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The merger followed several years of joint ministry in one new sanctuary, after both churches were destroyed during the Hurricane Agnes flood in 1972. Much of Corning and Painted Post was destroyed during the hurricane. In 2006 the two congregations decided to become a united church.

The Moderator appointed Elder Joan Braun to draft a Resolution of Thanks to the host congregation for presentation at the end of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

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

With sadness, he announced that the Rev. Joelle Davis has renounced the jurisdiction of the Presbyterian Church, USA. This renunciation came in the midst of the work of an Investigating Committee of the Synod of the Northeast. The consequences of the renunciation of jurisdiction are:

- She ceases to be an ordained minister. She cannot transfer membership because there is no longer a membership to transfer.
- She is entitled to her pension through the Board of Pensions (by law, a vested member may not lose their pension benefits, no matter if they renounce jurisdiction of this Church). However, one who renounces jurisdiction (a) will not be entitled to future experience apportionments and (b) forfeits the right to declare pension payments as housing allowance.

The stated clerk offered prayer.

The stated clerk spoke to two upcoming events:

The Annual Clerk's Questionnaire is on line at <http://pcusa.org/stats>. This is the annual questionnaire that seeks a "snapshot" of PCUSA congregations in a couple of areas of ministry. The deadline for submission is November 13, 2015 . . . this coming Friday.

The Annual Statistical Reports: The report workbook is online and accessible to all clerks and pastors. It is located at the same website: <http://pcusa.org/stats>. The stated clerk encourages those who are responsible for preparing statistics to access the workbook, download it, and fill it out . . .now. The report forms will be available beginning the second week of December. Twice in recent years, due to unexpected illnesses of a clerk of session, the stated clerk has filled out the forms and submitted them for the congregations he was serving. Having filled out the workbook, it took less than 15 minutes to complete the on-line form.

A letter will be going out to all clerks with further details and suggestions.

He noted further: the completed report is received by the **session**, NOT the congregation. Do not wait for a congregation meeting to submit the forms. In fact, since the session only **receives** the report (and does not "approve" the report) clerks may submit the form when they have completed it, then present the forms for receipt by the session.

Action Items

Upon the stated clerk's recommendation, the presbytery VOTED to:

(Privilege of Voice)

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

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION, CHINESE KOINONIA MISSIONARY FELLOWSHIP

Glen Kennedy, a member of the Administrative Commission provided the report of the Commission. He shared the recent history of the Chinese Koinonia Christian Fellowship. The Fellowship is now sustained by its own offerings, but has not yet incorporated.

Glen introduced Pastor Ouyang who is serving as pastor for the Fellowship. He shared his spiritual and ministerial journey, and his work with the Chinese Koinonia Missionary Fellowship.

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

Gail Heimberger presented the report of the General Council.

FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Temporary Standing Rules / Addenda)

1. **Adopt** Addenda A-Z and AA and attach them to the previously-approved Temporary Standing Rules.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(2016 Presbytery Dates/Locations)

1. The Council discussed invitations and possible locations for presbytery meetings in 2016
 - Saturday January 30, 2016 – Hammondspport
 - Tuesday March 15 – Horseheads, *a little early to avoid the early Easter season*
 - Saturday May 21 – Huron, *pending session approval*
 - Tuesday September 27 – Camp Whitman, *pending Camp Board Approval*
 - Saturday November 15 – Corning, First, *pending session approval*

(Camp Whitman)

2. **Approve** switching to a new camp database (cost approximately \$6,600 per year).
3. **Approve** the Revised Camp Whitman By-laws.
 - The Camp Board will remain an advisory board.
 - The current insurance policy includes liability coverage for Board members.
 - The Council will consider the recommendation to create a new 501c3 corporation for the camp.

(Stated Clerk Salary)

4. **Recommend** the following salary for the stated clerk, effective September 1, 2015 through December 31, 2016.

Cash Salary \$11,961.00

5. **Pay** the stated clerk the 2014 cash salary amount for his work as stated clerk pro-tem from June 2014 through August 2015.

(Staff Salaries)

6. **Approve** the following staff salaries for 2016:

| | |
|--|---|
| Karen Jensen, Administrative Assistant | \$44,042.37 (increase of 4%) |
| Lea Kone, Camp Director 62.5% time | \$32,032.00 (increase of 2.5% with a time increase to 62.5% time) |
| Darwin Jepsen, Camp Property Manager | \$24,969.50 (increase of 2%) |

(Addison / Cemetery Deed Transfer)

7. **Authorize** the Rev. John Knight to act on behalf of the presbytery to finalize the transfer of the cemetery deed from the Addison Presbyterian Church, Addison, NY to the Town of Addison.

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Rationale: The continued upkeep of the cemetery is now more than the congregation can manage. The Town of Addison is willing to assume upkeep of the cemetery, with the transfer of the deed to the town.

(Fairville / Follow-up on Dissolution)

8. **Approve** sending the remaining \$10,000 endowment from the will of Edna Nichols to Auburn Theological Seminary, according to the provisions of the bequest that upon dissolution of the congregation, the remainder of the endowment go to the Seminary.

- The Fairville Administrative Commission wishes to schedule a Service of Closure to be held at the Fairville Presbyterian Church on Sunday December 13, at 2:00 p.m.
- The Fairville property has been listed with Doebleer Realty for \$65,000.

(West Virginia Mission Trip)

9. **Approve** the dates of April 17-23, 2016 for the Presbytery of Geneva Mission Trip to West Virginia.

(Transitional Presbytery Leader Search)

10. **Approve** the Position Description for a Transitional Presbytery Leader.

- The Search Team is comprised of the Rev. Betsey Crimmins; Elder Bob Seem, CRE; and Elder Ellen Reynolds. The Personnel Committee is seeking a fourth person to replace a member who resigned.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Deborah Grohman (co-chair) presented the report of the Personnel Committee.

(Transitional Leader Search Committee)

The presbytery VOTED to:

Elect the Rev. David Ashby to serve on the Transitional Leader Search Committee, to replace the Rev. Jim Kerr, who had to resign from service.

The Committee is comprised of:

- The Rev. David Ashby (Honeoye Falls, Interim)
- The Rev. Betsey Crimmins (Elmira, First)
- Elder Beth Haines-He (Arkport)
- Elder Bob Siem (Seneca Falls)

HEDGESVILLE UPDATE

Larry Bates provided an update on Hedgesville.

The Boyds Corners Bible Church (3 miles down the road) is very interested in obtaining the property. Offers and counter-offers have been received, and the Administrative Commission, with the help of Elder Mel Olver, Esq., are working on finalizing the sale. An inventory of the church property and furnishings has been completed. The property has been appraised at \$25,000. The next order of business will be preparation of the resolution to the NYS Supreme Court and the final transfer of the property.

SYNOD ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE (SARC)

Gail Heimberger welcomed the members of the Synod Administrative Review Committee who were present:

- The Rev. Lynette Sparks (Chair of the SARC / Presbytery of Genesee Valley)*
- The Rev. Bronwen Boswell (Presbytery of Western New York)*

Gail shared the journey of the General Council in dealing with the aftermath of the tragedy of the drowning of Graham Andrus at Camp Whitman in 2011. She shared the Council's work and the responses they have made to the requests of the Andrus family.

Lynette Sparks along with Bronwen Boswell, presented an overview of the Special Report of the SARC. She offered the presbytery a picture of how the SARC has engaged with the concern, how the SARC has engaged with the General Council, and how the SARC has been engaged with the family of Graham Andrus.

- Lynette read a letter to the presbytery, written by Graham Andrus' mother, Karen Andrus.

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- The SARC was approached by a former pastor of this presbytery whom Karen Andrus asked about the possibility of meeting with the SARC.
- A few of the *perceptions* of the Andrus family:
 - Actions taken were more about mitigating liability than pastoral care.
 - She never felt acknowledged by the Camp or the Presbytery, and was rebuffed.
 - Significant contact occurred only after the statute of limitations had passed.
 - We were told, "It is being handled," but it wasn't.
 - The SARC's first ministry was to do everything they could to help Mrs. Andrus to be heard.
- Lynette affirmed the Council's diligence in moving into this tragedy with courage, honesty, and a genuine desire for healing, knowing that there would be no "quick fix."
- The challenge now is to come to grips with what happened and to determine how to move forward with healing and grace, and to provide true ministry to all involved.
- Lynette shared that she and Jim Renfrew, in their conversations with Mrs. Andrus have been life-transforming.
- The report today and the response to it is about **us** in the search for healing from brokenness. The Andrus family has already paid a heavy consequence for the decisions their son made that day. The former presbytery executive, as we heard earlier this morning, has experienced consequences. Our consequence is the heavy task of owning responsibility and moving forward in a way that will lead to the grace of healing for all, to making sure to the best of our that such a tragedy not happen again.
- Mrs. Andrus shared that the *Parable of the Unjust Judge* has new meaning for her, as she has sought for a long time that there be some form of justice.
- Lynette shared that Mrs. Andrus' courage and pursuit of justice is a real gift to this presbytery, a gift that she has courageously, persistently, and painfully given to us.

Opportunity was given to the presbytery for questions for clarification. The following is a summary of comments made:

- In May and June, 2014 Jon Knight and Dick Schied met with Mrs. Andrus.
- Mrs. Andrus did not want to be present at this meeting, but did request that her statement be read to the presbytery.
- The SARC representatives (Lynette Sparks and Jim Renfrew) made a diligent effort to allow Mrs. Andrus be allowed to take the lead regarding contacts and conversation. The hope is that this will move toward true reconciliation, but Mrs. Andrus needs to take the lead in such an outcome.
- Mrs. Andrus deeply appreciated the letter from the Moderator and the Chair of the General Council which was sent directly to her: the first time that direct communication has been engaged.
- Our responsibility started before the event happened, we needed to challenge leadership that was counter to the way the presbytery has been in the past. This event is not reflective of the way the presbytery has been in the past. We need to acknowledge responsibility, but that responsibility began before Graham Andrus' death.
-

The presbytery was divided into groups of eight people, to discuss the Special Report, guided by group facilitators.

Following the conversations, the presbytery made its way to the sanctuary for a Service of Wholeness.

WORSHIP

The worship service was a Service of Wholeness, led by Gail Heimberger, David Kilgore, Russ Roth, Leah Ntuala, and Glen Kennedy.

LUNCH

Following the prayer for the meal, offered by Glen Kennedy presbytery recessed for lunch, provided by the United Church of Painted Post.

RECONVENING

Moderator Elect Dick Schied led the presbytery in prayer.

SYNOD MINISTRY & MISSION COMMISSION

Virginia Champlin presented her report of the Synod Ministry & Mission Commission, the full text of which is posted on the presbytery website, <http://presbyteryofgeneva.org>.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Paul Salisbury presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Examination for Membership / the Rev. A.J. Tierson)

1. **Examine** the Rev. A.J. Tierson for membership in the Presbytery of Geneva. A.J. is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church, and has fulfilled all of the requirements for ordination in the PCUSA.

2. Upon successful completion of the examination, **enroll** the Rev. A.J. Tierson as a member of the Presbytery of Geneva. Since A. J. has not completed the PCUSA requirement of facility in the Greek and Hebrew languages (though he did successfully complete the Ordination Exam in Biblical Exegesis, which requires both languages), the vote will be a ¾ vote of the presbytery.

(Corning, First / the Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz)

3. **Approve** the call of First Presbyterian Church, Corning, NY to the Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz as Pastor, effective January 2, 2016 at the following terms:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Cash Salary | 44,100.00 |
| Fair Rental Value of Manse* | 13,230.00 |
| Total Effective Salary | 57,330.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| SECA allowance | 3,375.00 |
| Reimbursible expenses: | 4,000.00 |
| Auto Exp. @ IRS rate | |
| Business/Professional Exp. | |
| Books | |
| Continuing Education | |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Board of Pensions dues | 20,925.45 |
| Dental (Board of Pensions) | 1,800.00 |

Vacation: 4 weeks (4 Sundays)
Continuing Education: 2 weeks (2 Sundays)

Moving Expenses (reportable to IRS) up to \$10,000.00

4. **Request** transfer of the membership of the Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz from the Presbytery of New Brunswick to the Presbytery of Geneva, effective January 2, 2016.

5. **Appoint** the Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Corning, NY effective January 2, 2016.

(Ithaca, First / Candidate John McDonald)

6. **Approve**, if the way be clear the call of First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY to Candidate John McDonald to be Associate Pastor upon his ordination by the Presbytery of New Castle on December 6, 2015. The call to First Presbyterian Church is effective December 6, 2015 at the following terms:

| | |
|-------------|-----------|
| Cash Salary | 30,489.00 |
|-------------|-----------|

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| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Housing Allowance | 16,417.00 |
| Total Effective Salary | 46,906.00 |
| SECA allowance | 3,588.00 |
| Pension & Medical | 16,417.10 |
| Dental PPO | 443.40 |
| Travel Allowance | 2,000.00 |
| Book Allowance | 800.00 |
| Continuing Education | 2,000.00 |

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

7. **Request** the Presbytery of New Castle to transfer the membership of the Rev. John McDonald to the Presbytery of Geneva upon his ordination (on December 6, 2014 at First and Central Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware).

(Ithaca / Administrative Commission to Install)

8. **Approve** the following Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. John McDonald as Associate Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY. [NOTE: At the time of preparing this report, the date and time of the Service of Installation had not been determined. It will likely be after January 1, 2016.]

Presbytery Moderator the Rev. David Kilgore, HR or his designee
The Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao (Watkins Glen)
Elder John Yoon (Ithaca, youth elder)
Elder John Peeples (Trumansburg)
Elder Cindy Weaver (Ithaca)
Lea Kone (Director, Camp Whitman)

Other participants:

The Rev. Douglas Gerdts – Presbytery of New Castle, pastor of First & Central Presbyterian Church, Wilmington, Delaware
The Rev. Taryn Mattice – Protestant Cooperative Ministry, Ithaca

9. **Enroll** the Rev. Douglas Gerdts and the Rev. Taryn Mattice as Corresponding Members of the Administrative Commission to Install.

10. **Authorize** the Moderator or designee to make changes to the Administrative Commission to Install, as necessary and appropriate.

11. **Dismiss** the Administrative Commission, with thanks, at the conclusion of the Service of Installation.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

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

(Moderator Appointments)

1. **Appoint** the Rev. Ellen Donnan as moderator of the session of Red Creek Presbyterian Church, Red Creek, NY, effective November 3, 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:

(Hammondsport / the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao)

1. **Approve** the request for the dissolution of the Interim Pastor relationship between First Presbyterian Church, Hammondsport, NY and the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, effective November 15, 2015.

(Watkins Glen/ the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao)

2. **Approve** the Interim Pastor Covenant (full-time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY and the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, effective November 16, 2015 at the following terms:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Cash Salary* | 47,056.60 |
| Housing Allowance | 2,500.00 |
| Dental Coverage | 443.40 |
| Total Effective Salary | 50,000.00 |

*Of this amount, \$4,800.00 will be deferred pre-tax salary into a 403(b) plan with Fidelity, through the PCUSA.

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Pension & Medical | 16,416.00 |
| Continuing Education (reimb.) | 1,000.00 |
| Ministry Expenses (reimb.) | 1,000.00 |
| Automobile (reimb.) | IRS mileage rate |

Vacation: one month, including 4 Sundays
Continuing Education: two weeks

3. **Appoint** the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY effective November 16, 2015.

(Wolcott / the Rev. Walter Stuber)

4. **Approve** the Covenant between the session of Wolcott Presbyterian Church, Wolcott, NY and the Rev. Walter Stuber, from September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016 at the following terms:

| | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Cash Salary | 7,000.00 |
| Housing Allowance | 18,500.00 |
| Total Effective Salary | 35,500.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------|-----------|
| Pension & Medical | 14,502.48 |
| Travel Exp. (IRS rate) | 1,500.00 |
| Business/Professional Exp. | 1,000.00 |
| Continuing Education | 500.00 |

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

(Palmyra, Western / the Rev. Robin Lostetter)

4. **Approve** the Interim Pastor Covenant (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 | 30,500.00 |
| Total Effective Salary | 50,000.00 |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------|
| Pension & Medical | 6,240.00 |
| SECA Allowance | 2,000.00 |
| Auto Expense | 5,500.00 |
| Business/Professional Exp. | 3,515.00 |
| Continuing Education | 5,000.00 |

Moving Costs (reportable to IRS): all reasonable expenses

Vacation: 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays

Continuing Education: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

5. **Appoint** the Rev. Robin Lostetter as moderator of the session of Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY effective October 1, 2015.

(Hector / the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao)

5. **Approve** (pending the vote of the congregation) the dissolution of the pastoral relationship (1/4 time) between First Presbyterian Church, Hector and the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, effective November 15, 2015.

(Hector / Lodi)

6. **Approve**, if the way be clear and upon the dissolution of the pastoral relationship with the Rev Nancy Meehan Yao, a change in the call for one person to serve the yoked churches: Hector, ³/₄ time and Lodi, ¹/₄ time.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

Nancy Meehan Yao presented the report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Committee on Preparation for Ministry / Candidate Withdrawal)

1. **Approve** the withdrawal of Elder Stephen Beals, CRE from the candidacy process. This request comes after much prayer and much discernment with persons who have held him in care, and the discernment that he is not called to this form of ministry.

(Committee on Preparation for Ministry / Commissioned Ruling Elders)

2. **Approve** the Committee's request to certify the following persons as "ready to receive a commission."

- Elder Bob Sell (Horseheads)
- Elder Bessie Tyrell (Atlanta)

Nancy Meehan Yao led the presbytery in prayer.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jim Yao presented the report of the Budget & Finance Committee.

For Presbytery's Action

Upon recommendation of the Budget & Finance Committee, and with approval of the General Council, the presbytery VOTED to:

(2016 Presbytery Budget – First Reading)

1. **Receive** for first reading the proposed 2016 Presbytery Budget, with action to be taken during the January 30, 2016 meeting of the presbytery.

[NOTE: The proposed Financial Policies for the Presbytery of Geneva will come before the presbytery during the January 30, 2016 stated meeting, for discussion and action.]

THE SLIDES OF THE BUDGET REPORT WILL BE PLACED ON THE PRESBYTERY WEB SITE.

The full proposed 2016 Budget is already on the website.

For Presbytery's Information

In preparation for the 2016 Presbytery Budget, the General Council approved the following recommendations of the Budget & Finance Committee:

- Keep the total per capita for 2016 at \$44.00 (the same as 2015 -- \$32.88 to the presbytery).
- Ask churches to increase their mission pledge for 2016 by 5% over 2015.
- Approve bringing the proposed 2016 budget to presbytery in November for a first reading, and action in January.

- That a letter be sent to any session that elects to withhold per capita, explaining the impact of their action on the other churches in the presbytery.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Leah Ntuala presented the report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee

The presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons, as nominated by the Committee:

Budget & Finance Committee

- Class of 2018:
Elder Marilyn Benedict (Ontario Center)
Two positions remain open.
- Class of 2017: *One position remains open*

Presbytery Personnel Committee

- Class of 2018:
Elder Ernie Danforth (Corning, First)
Elder Harriett Potter
- Class of 2016: *One position remains open*

Committee on Ministry

- Class of 2018:
Elder Jim Varner (Hornell)
The Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao (Hector)
Elder Pricilla Andrews, CRE (Dundee)
The Rev. A.J. Tierson (Phelps)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

- Class of 2018:
Elder Sue Goodrich (Penn Yan)
The Rev. Glen Kennedy (Painted Post)
- Class of 2016:
Elder John Gingrich (Wolcott)

Ordination Exam Readers

- The Rev. Amy Loving Austin (Seneca #9 / Bellona)
- Elder Ellen Reynolds (Geneva)
- The Rev. Jim Yao (Hector / Lodi)

Commissioners, Synod of the Northeast (attend 2016 & 2017)

- The Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls)

Camp Whitman Board

- Tom Bailey (Spencer)
- Rebecca Cowan
- George Poorman
- Phil Opdyke
- Beth Whitbeck

Grant Missions Team

- Class of 2016:
The Rev. Jane Winters (Elmira, Westminster)
- Class of 2017:
Elder Tara McShanley (Newark)
- Class of 2018:

Elder Marilyn Benedict (Ontario Center)

Committee on Property

- Class of 2018:
Elder Jim Hopkins (Sodus)

Committee on Polity & Review

- Class of 2016:
Elder Kris Alling (Trumansburg)
The Rev. Jim Yao (Hector / Lodi)
- Class of 2017:
Elder Carol Merrill (Wolcott)
The Rev. Catherine Griffis (Hornell)
- Class of 2018:
Amanda McGonigal (Lodi)

Committee on Representation

- Class of 2016:
Elder Larry Bates (Bath)
- Class of 2017:
The Rev. Jim Gerling, HR
Elder Phoebe Baker (Penn Yan)

Presbytery Nominating Committee

- Elder Paul Salisbury (Newark)

Council

- **Chair** – The Rev. Russ Roth (Huron)
- **Moderator Elect** – Elder Joan Braun (Elmira, First)
- **Moderator** – Elder Dick Schied, CRE

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Carol Limner presented the report.

The Presbyterian Women of Geneva have planned a 2016 “Year for Focus on Mission.”

Dates to mark on your calendar are April 30, 2016 for the Spring Gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Elmira; and September 16, 2016 for the Fall Gathering at First Presbyterian Church, Geneva.

To jump-start the 2016 mission focus, a Birthday Grant application was submitted by the Presbyterian Women of Park Presbyterian Church, Newark in partnership with “Building Minds in South Sudan,” co-founded by Sebastian Maroundit (one of the “lost boys” of Sudan). The application seeks money to build a girls’ school. In early October, Linda Werts—Moderator of the Presbyterian Women—received confirmation that the project has been chosen as a 2016 Birthday Offering recipient, and will be funded up to \$124,000. The grant money is from Presbyterian Women in the Presbyterian Church, USA, Inc. We will have first-hand reports as the school is built, because Linda will be on hand at the groundbreaking in January 2016.

Which brings me to why I am carrying this unique lantern. The Presbyterian Women at Park Church have a mission to “light up South Sudan.” These solar lanterns, which cost \$10 each will provide evening light, and expand educational opportunities. The plan is to send 100 lanterns to South Sudan in January 2016. If you or your Presbyterian Women groups would like to join in this mission, Linda Werts can be contacted at Park Presbyterian Church, Newark.

PROPOSED OVERTURE TO THE 222ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The General Council VOTED to place before the presbytery the following overture, at the request from the

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session of First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY. The question before the presbytery will be:

Shall the Presbytery of Geneva Concur with the Overture to the 222nd General Assembly (2016, Portland) regarding fossil fuel companies?

The Overture has already been submitted to the Office of the General assembly. Concurrence would add the support of the Presbytery of Geneva to the Overture.

Elder Brian McFall (Ithaca, First) spoke to the Overture, which will come for presbytery's action during the January 30, 2016 meeting. He noted that the current Overture is not about divestment: it encourages investor activism, the issue of co-mingled assets. He presented a card with a link to the online version of the overture and resources supporting it. He also provided a link to those who disagree with the overture.

The Presbytery of _____ overtures the 222nd General Assembly (2016) to:

| Overture | Commentary |
|--|--|
| <p>1. Express its profound concern about the destructive effects of climate change on all God's creation, including a disproportionate impact on those living in poverty and in the least developed countries; the elderly and children; and those least responsible for the emissions of greenhouse gases. The 222nd General Assembly (2016) thus recognizes the moral mandate for humanity to shift to a sustainable energy regime in a way that is both just and compassionate. This mandate compels us to action as a denomination to divest from the fossil fuel industry even as we reduce our use of fossil fuels and shrink our carbon footprint.</p> | <p>This is essentially the same as the language in the 2014 overture, approved by 12 presbyteries.</p> <p>Minutes from GA2014 regarding the 2014 overture and its referral to MRTI can be found here: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B997DYTjhcQhVUdWNk1nbzFmeDQ/view?usp=sharing</p> <p>Or directly at the pc-biz website here: http://www.pc-biz.org/PC-Biz.WebApp_deploy/%28S%2855xgixsb2nboovq23utk22j%29%29/IOBView.aspx?m=ro&id=4587</p> |
| <p>2. Call upon the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation to:</p> | |
| <p>a. Immediately stop any new direct investment in fossil fuel companies</p> | <p>This clause refers to directly held shares only; as opposed to shares commingled in other funds. The 2014 overture recommended "immediately stop[ing] any new investment in fossil fuel companies." Staff of the Presbyterian Foundation (PF) and Board of Pensions (BOP) pointed out that such language would prevent them from using money markets or index funds or other commingled assets as short-term holding accounts.</p> |
| <p>b. Work to ensure that within three years, none of the Board's or the Foundation's directly held or commingled assets includes holdings of either equities or corporate bonds in the fossil fuel companies identified in the Carbon Underground 200 list¹ by:</p> | <p>The need for action is urgent and increasing. The 2014 overture asked for divestment within five years. GA2014 instructed the Mission Responsibility Through Investment (MRTI) committee to study the subject matter of the 2014 overture for two years, and report back. After two years of study, divestment should be possible within another three years.</p> <p>The Carbon Underground 200, compiled and updated by Fossil Free Indexes, LLC, is the successor to the 2009 Carbon Tracker Initiative list of the 200 global companies with the largest undeveloped reserves of coal, oil, and natural gas. It is the reference list used by most fossil fuel divestment efforts.</p> |
| <p>i. Working with current and prospective asset</p> | <p>This clause acknowledges that most BOP and PF funds are</p> |

¹ <http://fossilfreeindexes.com/research/the-carbon-underground/> or current equivalent (referenced 05-18-2015)

| Overture | Commentary |
|---|--|
| managers to develop and implement institutional fossil free investment options | invested by external fund managers. These managers must provide fossil free investment options. If they don't, new managers may need to be identified. |
| ii. Establishing within one year fossil free investment options for fund participants | Fossil free investment "sleeves" are easy to create. This option will soon be available for investors in the Presbyterian Foundation. It should also be made available to clergy invested in the pension fund. |
| iii. Actively seeking out and investing in renewable and energy efficiency related securities | This clause echoes the 2012 call by GA for positive reinvestment in Palestine that has been successfully implemented by PF. It was not included in the 2012 overture, but is endorsed by the PF, by the Advisory Committee on Social Witness Policy (ACSWP) and by GreenFaith. |
| iv. Notwithstanding the above provisions, retaining or acquiring minimal sufficient investment in fossil fuel companies to participate in shareholder engagement activities | This clause acknowledges the faithful work and accomplishment of MRTI in shareholder action. It is possible to divest <i>and</i> keep our "seat at the table" by holding minimal shares. According to Securities and Exchange Commission guidelines, an entity holding as little as \$2,000 of a company's assets may engage in shareholder advocacy. This provision allows the church funds to keep or buy stocks in order to pursue shareholder advocacy. |
| v. Notwithstanding the above provisions, taking no action inconsistent with fiduciary duty or principles of sound investment, including the real and substantial risk of stranded carbon assets | This clause ensures that we do not expect the PF and BOP to violate their legal fiduciary responsibility. Fiduciary duty, is often narrowly interpreted as simply maximizing return on investment. A broader definition includes consistency with the goals of the investing organization and avoiding foreseeable risks, such as the "stranded assets" that will occur as the world acknowledges that the majority of currently identified fossil fuel reserves cannot be developed. |
| c. Incorporate into public financial reports regular updates detailing progress made towards these ends | Fossil fuel divestment is primarily a moral act. We ask for a mechanism to ensure transparency and communication within the church. |
| 3. Call upon the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to inform affected fossil fuel companies and the larger public of the passage and implementation of this resolution | As called for in principle 7.b of the denominational "Divestment Strategy" document: http://www.pcusa.org/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/divestment_strategy.pdf |
| 4. Call upon, and provide instructional materials to assist all levels of the denomination (presbyteries, congregations, and individual members) in taking action to slow climate change, including: divestment of fossil fuel holdings; shareholder activism; investments in renewable energy; advocacy at local, state, and federal levels for policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and local efforts to reduce carbon footprint consistent with the 2006 call ² for | As requested from the floor of GA2014, this broadens divestment beyond the PF and BOP to all levels of the church. It incorporates ideas expressed by ACSWP in their concurrence with the 2014 overture, and echoes the call for political involvement, such as calling for a price on carbon, in the 2008 "Power to Change" |

² <http://www.pcusa.org/resource/guide-going-carbon-neutral/> (referenced 03-14-2015)

| Overture | Commentary |
|---|-------------------|
| denominational carbon neutrality, and the 2008 “Power to Change” recommendations. ³ | |

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The presbytery AFFIRMED the following *Resolution of Thanks*, prepared by Joan Braun.

On behalf of the presbytery, Elder Braun offered appreciation to all who offered such wonderful hospitality to the Presbytery of Geneva.

CLOSING

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

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk Pro-Tem

³ http://www.pcusa.org/site_media/media/uploads/acswp/pdf/energyreport.pdf (referenced 03-14-2015)