

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CORNING
NOVEMBER 12, 2016**

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

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Geneva held a duly-called Stated Meeting on Saturday November 12, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church, Corning, New York.

CONVENING

Elder Dick Schied CRE, 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 30	Mar 15	May 21	Aug 2	Sept 27	Nov 12
Austin, Amy Loving – <i>Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca #9</i>	P	P	Ex		P	Ex
Baker, Kirk – <i>Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)</i>	P	P	P		P	Ex
Bhasker, Stanley – <i>Bath, Bath</i>	P	P	A	P	P	P
Crimmins, Betsey – <i>Elmira, First</i>	P	P	Ex		P	Ex
Donnan, Ellen – <i>Dundee, First / Junius, Junius</i>	P	P	P	P	P	Ex
Duncan, Russell – <i>Lyons, First</i>	Ex	P	A	P	Vermont	
Griffis, Katherine – <i>Hornell, United</i>	P	Ex	P		P	P
Grohman, Deb – <i>Ontario, Ontario</i>	P	A	A		P	Ex
Heimberger, Gail – <i>Sodus, First United</i>	P	P	P		P	Ex
Kennedy, Glen – <i>Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	A		P	P
Kerr, James - <i>Canandaigua, United</i>	Ex	P	Ex		P	A
Knight, Jonathan – <i>Horseheads, First</i>	A	P	Honorably		Retired	
Lester, Donald – <i>Howard, Union*</i>	A	A	A		A	A
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – <i>Geneva, First</i>	P	P	Ex		P	Ex
McDonald, John – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	P	P	A		P	A
Malles, Paul – <i>Penn Yan, First</i>	Ex	P	P		P	Ex
Marr, Peter – <i>Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*</i>	A	A	A		A	A
Mellgard, Rob – <i>Ovid Federated</i>					P	P
Ntuala, Leah – <i>Seneca Falls, First</i>	P	P	A		P	P
O'Leary, Lucinda – <i>Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*</i>	P	P	A	P	P	P
Peeples, Cheryl – <i>Trumansburg, First Ulysses</i>	Ex	P	P		Ex	P
Preisendanz, David – <i>Elmira, North</i>					P	P
Price, Richard – <i>Big Flats, Big Flats</i>	P	P	Honorably		Retired	
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	A	P	P		A	P
Roth, Russ – <i>Huron, Huron</i>	P	P	P		Ex	P
Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps, United Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	Ex	P	P	Ex
Ugoretz, Jeffrey – <i>Corning, First</i>	P	A	A		P	P
Weaver, Cindy (<i>Ovid Federated</i>)	Ordained	04/24/16	P	P		
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo, First (Temporary Supply)*</i>	A	P	A		P	A
Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P
Yao, James – <i>Lodi, Lodi Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i>	P	Ex	P	P	P	P
Yao, Nancy Meehan – <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor) Hammondspport, First (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	P	P	P	P
TOTAL PRESENT	20	23	12	9	23	14
TOTAL EXCUSED	4	2	5		3	9
TOTAL ABSENT	6	5	12		3	5

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Aug 2	Sept 27	Nov 12
Ashby, David (V) <i>Interim Pastor, Honeoye Falls, NY</i>	Ex	Ex	P	Ex	P	P
Campbell, Anne (AL)	A	A	A		A	A
Delhagen, Harold (V) <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	A	Ex	A		Ex	P

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Duncan, Russell (V) United Church of Salem, Salem, VT (UCC)					Ex	Ex
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) <i>Robinson Memorial PC, Syracuse, NY</i>	P	P	P	P	P	Ex
Haines, Todd (AL)	A	A	A		A	A
Huling, Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A	A	A		A	A
McCullister, Dan (AL)	A	A	A		A	A
Moore, Banu (AL)	A	Ex	Ex		Transfer	
Moore, James (AL)	P	Ex	Ex		Transfer	
Roth, Marjorie (V) <i>Chaplain, Friendly Home, Rochester, NY</i>	A	A	P		Ex	A
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	A	Ex	A		A	Ex
Warrington, Karl (AL)	A	Ex	A		A	A
Weaver, Cindy (AL)					P	Ex
TOTAL PRESENT	2	1	3	1	3	2
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	6	2		2	4
TOTAL ABSENT	9	5	7		6	6

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

Name	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Aug 2	Sept 27	Nov 12
Barnard, David	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Bartel, Joanne	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Bembower, Dean	Ex	Ex	Deceased			
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Bollinger, Zane	Ex	Ex	Ex	Deceased		
Coffman, Fred	Ex	P	P	P	P	Ex
Courtney, Philip			Ex		Ex	Ex
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Crego, Peter	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Edwards, Sam	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Elder, John	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Farrell, Nancy	Ex	Ex	P		Ex	Ex
Flaherty, Scott	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Gerling, Jim	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	P
Gould, John	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Hicks, James	Ex	P	Ex	P	P	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	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Kilgore, David	P	P	P		P	Ex
Knight, Jonathan			Ex		P	Ex
Magley, Fred	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Montgomery, Tom	Ex	P	Ex		Ex	Ex
Murray, Virginia	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Newman, James	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
Outterson, Hugh	Deceased	01/18/16				
Price, Richard			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>	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	P
Valk, John	Ex	Ex	Ex		Ex	Ex
TOTAL PRESENT	2	5	4	1	5	3

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 30	Mar 15	May 21	Aug 2	Sept 27	Nov 12
Boswell, the Rev. Bronwen (<i>Temporary Transitional Leader / Presbytery of Western New York</i>)	P	P	P	P	P	P

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Delhagen, the Rev. Kyle Delhagen (Palmyra, Western / Reformed Church in America, Formula of Agreement)						P
Elfond, the Rev. Cheryl Ann (Elmira, North / Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley)	A	P	A		Ex	A
Frigard, the Rev. Beth (Big Flats, First / United Church of Christ / Formula of Agreement)					P	P
Gasparri, the Rev. Francis (Williamson / American Baptist Church)	A	P	A			
Lostetter, the Rev. Robin (Palmyra, Western / Presbytery of Pittsburgh)	A	P	A		A	Ex
Shevlin, the Rev. Linda (Naples, Trinity Federated / United Methodist Church)	P	A	A		A	A
Stuber, the Rev. Walter (Wolcott / Presbytery of Genesee Valley)	Ex	Ex	A		P	A
TOTAL PRESENT	2	4	1	1	3	3
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	1	0		1	1
TOTAL ABSENT	3	1	5		2	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	Jan30	Mar 15	May 21	Aug 2	Sept 27	Nov 12
The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (Presbytery of Genesee Valley)	P	P	P	P (late)	P	P
TOTAL PRESENT	1	1	1	1	1	1
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0	0			

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Aug 2	Sept 27	Nov 12
Addison, Addison	A	A	A		A	A
Almond Union	A	A	A		P	A
Andover, First	A	A	A		A	A
Arkport, First	A	A	A		A	Bryan Wilson
Atlanta, Atlanta	A	A	A		A	A
Bath, First	P	Ex	P		P	A
Benton, Bellona	P	P	P		P	Patricia Seger
Big Flats, First	A	A	A		P	Robin Fitzgerald
Burdett, Burdett	A	A	A		A	A
Canandaigua, United	A	P	A		A	A
Canisteo, Canisteo	A	A	A		P	Barbara Stevens
Cohocton, First	A	A	A		A	A
Corning, First	A	P	A		A	Kirk Allen
Dundee, First	A	A	A	P	P	Priscilla Andrews
Elmira, First	P	P	A		P	Roberta Cowan
Elmira, Lake Street	A	P	A		A	A
Elmira, North	A	P	P		"	Jeff Richards
Elmira, Westminster	A	A	A			A
Fayette, W. Fayette	A	A	A		A	A
Geneva (1)	P	P	P	P	P	Sigrid Carle
Geneva (2)	A	P	A		P	Chris Gerling
Hammondsport, First	P	A	A		A	A
Hector, First	P	A	A		P	A
Hornell, United	P	P	A	P	P	Lisa Sanford
Horseheads, First	P	A	P		A	A
Howard, Howard Union	A	A	A		A	A
Huron, Huron	P	P	P		A	Linda Hayes
Ithaca, First	P	Ex	A		P	A
Jasper, Jasper	A	A	A		A	A
Junius, Junius	P	Ex	Ex		A	A
Lodi, Lodi	P	P	P		P	Amanda McGonigal
Lyons, First	A	P	A		A	Tracey Rankert

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Marion, United	A	A	P		A	A
Moreland, Moreland	P	P	A		P	Robert Bellman
Naples, Trinity Fed.	P	A	P	P	A	Don Braun
Newark, Park	P	A	A		P	Paul Salisbury
Oaks Corners	P	A	A		A	A
Ontario, First	A	A	A		A	A
Ovid Federated	A	P	A	P	P	Roberta S. Morris
Painted Post, United	A	A	A		A	A
Palmyra, East Palmyra	A	A	A		A	A
Palmyra, Western	P	P	P		P	A
Penn Yan, First	P	P	A		P	Ex
Phelps, United	A	A	P		P	A
Prattsburg, First	A	A	A	P	A	A
Pulteney, First	P	P	P		P	Hariette Potter
Red Creek	A	A	A		A	A
Rock Stream	A	A	A		A	A
Romulus	A	A	Ex		P	A
Seneca Falls, First	A	A	A		A	A
Seneca, Seneca #9	A	A	A		A	A
Shortsville, First	A	A	A		A	A
Sodus, First United	P	A	P		A	A
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	P	P	P	P	P	Tom Bailey
Trumansburg, First of Ulysses	A	P	A		P	Kris Alling
Waterloo, First	A	A	A		A	A
Watkins Glen, First	P	P	A		P	Karen Rhodes
Weston, Weston	P	A	A		A	Vera E. Dykes
Williamson	A	P	A		A	A
Wolcott	A	P	P		P	Carol Merrill
TOTAL PRESENT	23	22	15	7	26	24
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	3	2		0	1
TOTAL ABSENT	37	35	43		34	35

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

(Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Aug 2	Sept 27	Nov 12
Anderson, Rob	Penn Yan	222 nd GA Commissioner					P	P
Andrews, Priscilla	Elmira, Lake	COM	P	P	P			P
Baker, Phoebe		Nominating Chair		P	P		P	P
Beals, Steven	West Fayette	CRE	P	Ex	A		A	A
Braun, Joann	Naples, Fed	Vice-Moderator	P	P	P	P	P	P
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	A	P	P	P	P	Ex
Colvin, Donna	Ovid	Synod Commissioner	P	P	A	P	P	A
Erb, Milt		Presbytery Treasurer	P		A		A	A
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A	P	A		A	Ex
Gingerich, John		CRE / CPM Chair		P	P		P	P
Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	A	P	P		P	A
Peek, Donald	Canisteo	CRE	P	A	A		A	P
Reynolds, Ellen	Geneva	General Council	P	P	P	P	P	P
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE	A		A		A	A
Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE / Moderator	P	P	P	P	P	P
Weaver, Cindy	Ithaca	Personnel Co-chair	P	P	Ordained	as	Teaching	Elder
Werts, Linda		P.W Representative			P		P	Ex
TOTAL PRESENT			10	12	10	5	10	8
TOTAL EXCUSED			0	1	0		0	3
TOTAL ABSENT			4	1	6		5	5

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency
None	

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)

Includes CREs not serving churches

Mary Jane Peek	Pulteney
Rosanna Bates	Pulteney / Committee on Ministry
Patricia Kapusta	Elmira, First / Inquirer

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 30	Mar 14	May19	Aug 2	Sept 27	Nov 12
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	26	33	20	12	34	22
Total Elder Commissioners Present	33	34	25	12	36	32
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+ 7	+1	+5	0	+3	+10
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**	16	11	24		11	14
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***	36	36	37		34	35
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	25	23	32		22	27
Total Registered Visitors	14	14	0	3	6	3
Total Registered Attendance	73	81	45	27	76	57

* 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.

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 / convening with prayer (Richard Schied, Moderator)

Declaration of a Quorum

Enrollment of Corresponding Members

Welcome of New Elder Commissioners

Approval of the Docket

Welcome from Corning, First

Appointment of author(s) of resolution of thanks

Announcements

9:50 a.m. Report of the Stated Clerk

- Approval of Minutes: Stated Meeting, September 27, 2016

10:00 a.m. Report of Presbyterian Women – Linda Werts, Chair

10:05 a.m. Report of Synod Assembly – Synod Commissioners

10:20 a.m. Report of General Council – Russ Roth, Chair

10:30 a.m. Report of Transitional Leader Search Committee – Bob Seem, Chair

10:40 a.m. Report of Committee on Budget & Finance – Tim Johnson, Chair

11:20 a.m. Report of Presbytery Nominating Committee – Phoebe Baker, Chair

11:35 a.m. BREAK

11:45 a.m. Worship

12:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:10 p.m. Reconvene with Prayer

1:15 p.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry – John Gingerich & Kirianne Weaver Riehl, Co-chairs

1:20 p.m. Committee on Ministry – Jane Winters (for A.J. Tierson & Ellen Donnan, Co-chairs)

2:10 p.m. Moderator's Report – Dick Schied

2:15 p.m. Resolution of Thanks

2:20 p.m. Adjourn with Prayer

(Enrollment of Corresponding Members)

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

None were present.

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(Welcome of New Elder Commissioners)

The presbytery welcomed new and first-time elder commissioners from the following congregations:

Arkport Geneva

(Privilege of Voice)

The presbytery VOTED to grant privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will be making or participating in reports to the presbytery.

(Welcome to the Presbytery)

Jeffrey Ugoretz, Pastor, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of First Presbyterian Church, Corning. He noted that the church was founded almost 205 years ago, in 1812; and is the oldest church in Corning.

(Resolution of Thanks)

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

STATED CLERK REPORT

Stated Clerk Action Items

The stated clerk moves that the presbytery:

(Minutes, May 21, 2016 & August 2, 2016)

1. **Approve** the Minutes of the September 27, 2016 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, held at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, Dresden, NY.

(Report of 2016 Review of Session Minutes)

2. **Receive** the report of the 2016 Review of Session Minutes:

REPORT OF 2016 SESSION MINUTES REVIEW

The 2016 review of session minutes was the first in three years. The review was coordinated by the Polity & Review Committee of the presbytery. The reviews were scheduled regionally, with five reading sessions. Each of the sessions was led by the presbytery's stated clerk. The following report lists the churches whose minutes were reviewed, by reading session, and include Exceptions, Advice, and Commendations for each particular church.

At the beginning of the reading sessions, the stated clerk acknowledged that the advance notice of the reading sessions was rather short, and that three years of minutes was a lot to review in such a short time. With regard to the reading sessions, the clerk suggested that the main focus of readers should be the previous year to eighteen months. After three (in a few cases, four) years to not having minutes reviewed, the stated clerk suggested we are doing the equivalent of a "computer reset."

Saturday September 25 at the United Church of Hornell

Hornell (Jim Varner, clerk)

Exceptions: none

Advice: none

Commendations: The whole minutes book is inspiring! Beautiful!

Andover (Dorothy Hyde, clerk)

Exceptions:

No Sexual Misconduct Policy

No Child Protection Policy

Advice:

Difficult format to follow

Should have presbytery report following each presbytery meeting.

Need to record the annual insurance review.

Don't put annual corporate report in minutes

It would be helpful to cross-reference items that refer to prior actions or decisions

Commendations:

Voted to put someone on the inactive roll (which I hadn't done)

All financial matters were voted on correctly.

A good job of following the General Form & Procedures, except for not approving the agenda.

Roll book updated and in good order

Arkport (Lorraine Glidden, clerk)

Exceptions:

Session did not authorize a service for communion

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Session needs to approve a Manual of Administrative Operations
Advice:
Include budget in the minutes
Annual review of insurance coverage needs to be reported
Commendations:
Minutes are clearly written and provide an accurate record of session actions
Impressive list of in-house activities and projects that serve the community
Handling of selling the manse was done very well

Canisteo (Diane Miller, Clerk)

Exceptions:
No Child Protection Policy
Advice:
Quorum not always listed as being present
Cross-reference items that refer to prior actions or decisions
Be sure to report the review of session records (grace given, because it has been three years)
Education of newly elected elders?
Commendations:
Format is easy to read, and clearly written
Easy to see how many reports are given

Saturday October 1 at First Presbyterian Church, Bath

Weston (Mia Clemens, clerk)

Exceptions:
No listing of the budget
Advice: none
Commendations:
I liked how the minutes are presented.
The order of the minutes was easy to follow

Jasper (Nickie Adams, clerk)

Exceptions:
Extra pages were inserted
Minutes do not have consecutive page numbers
Advice:
Quorum should be stated
Need to note that the agenda was approved
Helps to use formatted page for taking notes; this helps to remind not to forget anything
Commendations:
Neat
Liked reading about happenings

Addison (Connie McCarrick, clerk)

Exceptions: none
Advice: none
Commendations:
Very legible, and excellent to read

Pulteney (Rosanna Bates, clerk)

Exceptions: none
Advice: None
Commendations:
Having an off-site get together with friends of the church to discuss the church and its future
Minutes very legible, complete, and contained all information

Hammondsport (Lyn Chadwick, clerk)

Exceptions:
When previous action of the session is referred to, page number is not mentioned
No Child Protection Policy
No Annual Statistical Report included
No Manual of Administrative Operations
Advice: none
Commendations:
The minutes are well-organized and easy to read
The church has a busy and innovative mission project that supplies diapers for free twice/month
Highlighting of details is very helpful

Seneca #9 (Pam Ormsby, clerk)

Exceptions:
Names of attendees not listed
Minister at communion not listed
Agenda never approved
No references to previous actions
Income / expense not reported
Advice: none

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Commendations:

Prayer Shawl and Lap Afghan ministry
Some minutes joint with Bellona Memorial and Seneca #9 more clear

Saturday October 8 at Park Presbyterian Church, Newark

Phelps (Marsha Gibbs, clerk)
Exceptions: none

Shortsville (Donna Williams, clerk)
Exceptions: none

East Palmyra (Debbie & Josh McCrossan, co-clerks)
Exceptions:
Session needs to elect the Treasurer (and for a specified term)

Oaks Corners (Mae Schweikhard, clerk)
Exceptions: none

Palmyra, Western (Janet Maketelow, clerk)
Exceptions:
No review of insurance coverage

Newark, Park (Carrie Taylor, clerk)
Exceptions:
No record of electing a clerk (and for a specified term)
No record of electing a treasurer (and for a specified term)

Saturday October 15 at Geneva Presbyterian Church, Geneva

Lodi (Amanda McGonigal, clerk)
Exceptions: none

Hector (Sue Russell, clerk)
Exceptions: none

Ovid (Janet Lynch, clerk)
Exceptions: none

Geneva: (Bette Schubert, clerk)
Exceptions:
No annual approval of Lord's Supper

West Fayette (Bonnie Saunders, clerk)
Exceptions: none

Junius (Christy Ward, clerk)
Exceptions:
No full financial review, and report

This reading session was attended by two pastors: Jim Yao (Hector / Lodi, and a member of the Polity & Review Committee) and Rob Mellgard (Ovid). Their presence was **most** helpful!

Saturday October 22 at First Presbyterian Church, Elmira

Penn Yan (Rob Anderson, clerk)
Exceptions: none
Advice:
Need minutes from annual / congregational meetings
Need to "x" out significant blank spaces
Election of Treasurer needs to be noted
Annual statistical report needs to be included

Commendations:
I like the Mission Statement in the minutes of each meeting
Elder Rob Anderson was selected as Commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly (2016)

Watkins Glen (Karen Rhodes, clerk)
Exceptions: none
Advice: none
Commendations:
Records very well written and complete
Good job done by a longtime faithful clerk and church member. Best of luck with your retirement from clerking!

Canandaigua (Karen VanBargen, clerk)
Exceptions:
Record administration of Lord's Supper and completed baptisms
Record authorization and occurrence of marriages
Record deaths of members in minutes, not just annual reports

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Record ordination and installation of officers
Record full budget information

Advice:

If moderator can't be present, please note moderator who was appointed
Record annual review/voting of sexual and child protection policies
If actions of prior session meetings are referred to, note references
Make clear the reviews of active members
Note racial-ethnic composition of session

Commendations:

Amended practice to note agenda approval, Feb. 2016
Improved recording of correspondence
Excellent recording of reports
Excellent recording of church life, actions of board

Corning, First (Peggy Schuckers, clerk)

Exceptions:

Statistical report last included was for 2013
Treasurer report summary not included when mentioned
Manual of Administrative Operations not approved
Child Protection Policy not approved

Advice: none

Commendations:

Thank you for all your consistency through all the changes in leadership!
Beautifully readable minutes and well-organized. Thank you!

Sodus (reviewed by Val Fowler)

Exceptions:

Baptisms are approved, but not reported as having occurred
No report of the full financial review/audit is included in the minutes
No report of the installation/ordination of officers
No annual review of the adequacy of insurance coverage
No election of Church Treasurer, nor term
No acknowledgement or adoption date of Sexual Misconduct or Child Protection policies

Advice:

Re: communion – it is important to note who presided, even if it is the pastor
Re: new members – please include all the information noted in the checklist
Don't forget to include this report in the minutes

Commendations:

The record of the call and the quorum of the Annual Congregational Meeting is VERY well done
The minutes are well-written and easy to read
The congregation has a strong church fellowship ministry: very active and very consistent
The congregation has many ministries to the community, and supports community mission programs
Greater than average number of adult baptisms: outstanding!

Moreland (Laurie Fursman, clerk)

Exceptions:

Approval of agenda is not recorded

Advice:

The clerk and treasurer are elected, but it does not specify term limits, so maybe throw that into the next election.
There are large blank spaces that could use lines drawn through them.

Commendations:

I enjoyed what Rev. Winters said on pages 195-196, about not relying on a minister to grow a church, but on ministry. Thanks for including that!

Elmira, Westminster (Mildred Bradley, clerk)

Exceptions: none

Advice:

Quite a few of the minutes did not show closing with prayer, so make sure to note that.
Quite a few of the minutes did not show approval of the agenda, so make sure to note that.

Commendations:

I believe the clerk does a good job with the minute-taking for a small congregation.
Westminster seems to be involved in many activities in and away from the church

Spencer (reviewed by Peggy Schuckers)

Exceptions:

While the annual Full Financial Review was completed, the report was not included in the minutes

Advice:

Would suggest using last names (e.g. Elder Bossard, or Elder Kerm Bossard) rather than just first names.
Would be helpful if it was noted who the moderator is each time rather than just saying, "Pastor"
The approval of the agenda should be noted.

Commendations:

The minutes follow the same format each time; they are so easy to read and to learn about the church
Great job lining up pulpit supply!

**PRESBTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CORNING
NOVEMBER 12, 2016**

Naples (Antone Olney, clerk)

Exceptions:

Should include notation of quorum in minutes
Neither communion services nor administration of communion (dates, etc) were noted

Advice:

Corrections should be noted with clerk's initials / large blank spaces need lines through them
Proper binder is needed

Commendations:

Great history / story telling – very informational
Good luck with the Community Garden
Membership committee news is very interesting

Elmira, Lake Street (Barbara Dove, clerk)

Exceptions: none

Advice: none

Commendations:

Minutes are beautifully written

Minutes that were not read (26):

Almond	Atlanta	Cohocton	Howard	
Bath	Dundee	Prattsburg	Rock Stream	
Huron	Lyons	Marion	Ontario Center	Red Creek
Wolcott				
Bellona	Romulus	Seneca Falls	Waterloo	
Big Flats	Burdett	Elmira, First	Elmira, North	Ithaca
Horseheads				
Painted Post	Trumansburg			

Overall impressions / questions asked by clerks

The response to the reading sessions was positive. The participants acknowledged the value of the opportunity to get together with other clerks, especially for the chance not only to connect with other clerks but also to know that they are not alone in the concerns they have and the desire to serve the church well.

In each session at least one person noted that they did not want to be there, and in fact tried hard not to be. At the end, every one of those persons offered a version of, "I'm really glad I came."

The participants were very glad to have the Checklist, though most of them were overwhelmed a bit by its length and comprehensiveness. They acknowledged that the Checklist will be helpful for:

1. Being able in a gentle way to remind the session of the things that need to be done through the year
2. Tracking the references to the session minutes throughout the year, rather than just prior to the reading
3. The ease of saving the document and using the expanding tables to record page references easily

Suggested Changes to the Checklist

The first section (General Forms and Procedures) will be changed, so that all that needs to be noted is a simple "Yes" or a check-mark. Filling in all the page numbers for such routine items is cumbersome.

The item regarding Triennial Visits will be excised, as the current Form of Government does not mention them, nor require them.

The appointment of a Treasurer by the session is noted as two items. One of them will be removed.

Saving and Archiving Minutes

Every session included questions about this subject. These important developments were shared:

1. **The big binders are no longer required, nor is the heavy paper stock for them.**
All paper sold in places like Office Max and Staples is acid free; the manila folders, as well. Minutes can be printed on such paper and stored in appropriately-marked folders, in a safe—waterproof and fireproof—place. One church uses large ring binders, and uses zip ties to keep the pages connected safely.

2. The safest place to store past minutes is the Presbyterian Historical Society.

Information is provided in the *Handbook for Clerks of Session*.

3. There are only four accepted media for archiving records:

- Hand-written
- Laser printing (this is the modern equivalent of lithography)
- Microfilm
- Microfiche

Digital storage is only a medium for back-up. Digital storage is **not** considered a permanent retrieval medium. The technology changes (how would you access session minutes stored on a 3 ½ " floppy?). Digital media degrades (CDs will last for up to ten years). Session records should be archived in one of the above four formats. Microfilm and microfiche are expensive; the Presbyterian Historical Society can help the cost of those processes, by sharing the most cost effective companies.

The Polity & Review Committee has decided to defer until Fall, 2017 the reading of minutes for the churches that did not attend this year's sessions. Those minutes reviewed this year will be reviewed in Fall, 2018, and subsequently the two groups will be reviewed every other year.

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 (2006)

The Rev. Kirk Baker (March 12, 2006 – Presbytery of Geneva)

15 years (2001)

The Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz (July 8, 2001 – Presbytery of West Jersey)

The Rev. Karl Warrington (January 29, 2001 – Elizabeth)

The Rev. Jane Winters (August 19, 2001 – Susquehanna Valley)

20 years (1996)

The Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummel (August 25, 1996 – Presbytery of Elizabeth)

30 years (1986)

The Rev. Susan Otterbacher (September 14, 1986 – Presbytery of Great Rivers)

35 years (1981)

The Rev. Beverly Karr-Lyon (July 19, 1981 – Presbytery of Geneva)

The Rev. Jim Kerr (August 39, 1981– Presbytery of The Western Reserve)

40 years (1976)

The Rev. David Barnard (July 11, 1976– Presbytery of Geneva)

50 years (1966)

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

Over 50 years

The Rev. Sam Edwards (**51 years**, May 23, 1965 – Presbytery of Central Washington)

The Rev. Gilmore Creelman (**53 years**, June 18, 1963 – Presbytery of Mahoning)

The Rev. John Valk (**55 years**, October 15, 1961 – Presbytery of Newark)

The Rev. John Elder (**56 years**, May 20, 1960 – Presbytery of Northern New England)

The Rev. Herb Tennes (**57 years**, May 14, 1959)

The Rev. Dean Bemower (**64 years**, June 15, 1952 – Presbytery of Boston)

The Rev. Fred Coffman (**66 years**, July 1, 1950 – Presbytery of Philadelphia)

The Rev. Fred Magley (**68 years**, October 13, 1948 – Presbytery of Newark)

There was no report of **Presbytery Women**. See the report included in the report of the General Council.

REPORT OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY

The Commissioners to this year's Assembly of the Synod of the Northeast presented reports of the Assembly:

- Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)
- The Rev. David Ashby (Interim Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Honeoye Falls, NY)
- The Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell)
- The Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls)

The report ended with singing the fourth verse of a hymn written specifically for the 2016 Synod Assembly by Stephen M. Fearing. The words of the verse are printed with permission of the author:

*We are witnesses of mercy, we are called to testify.
Gifts of grace in all abundance, steadfast love in strong supply.
God will guide and we will gather; leaning forward, called by name.
What great blessings lie before us, God's to give and ours to claim*

REPORT OF GENERAL COUNCIL

The Chair of General Council, Russ Roth, presented the report of the Council.

Upon recommendation of the General Council, the presbytery VOTED to:

FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The General Council VOTED to recommend that the presbytery:

(2017 Presbytery Meeting Dates)

1. **Approve** the following dates for presbytery meetings in 2017 (locations still to be determined):
 - Saturday January 28 (Bellona Memorial, tentative)
 - Tuesday March 28
 - Saturday May 20
 - Tuesday September 26 (Geneva, tentative)
 - Saturday November 18

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY:

Acting on behalf of the presbytery, the Council VOTED to:

(Nominating Committee)

- **Elect** the following persons:
 - Elder Barbara Scudder (Bath) to serve on the Committee on Personnel to complete the term of Les Bartley, Class of 2016.

 - Elder Linda Werts (Newark, Park) to serve on the Grant Missions Team to complete the term of Tara McShanley, Class of 2017

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION:

The Council VOTED to:

(Nominating Committee)

1. **Receive** the report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee. [See Nominating Committee report, below.]

(Office Expenses)

2. **Endorse** the following expenses:
 - The purchase of laptops for: the new Office Manager for Camp Whitman; the Director of Camp Whitman; and the Transitional Leader. Cost: @ \$500 - \$600 per laptop
 - Adding a telephone line for the Transitional Leader. Cost: @ \$50
 - A much-needed update (in 2017) of our QuickBooks (along with the computer upgrades). Cost: @ \$50
 - Purchase (in 2017) of an Adobe Acrobat Program.

(Remaining Funds from the Summer Presbytery Work Projects)

3. **Approve** granting the remaining funds from the Summertime Work Projects (\$412.22) to the Prattsburg church for continued work on their building.

(2017 Spring Work Trip to West Virginia)

4. **Approve** the West Virginia Mission Trip to be held April 23-29, 2017.

(Presbyterian Women)

5. Receive the report of Presbyterian Women, prepared by Linda Werts:

I share word again of our Fall Gathering held at Park Presbyterian Church, Newark on September 16. Fifty-some women attended from 13 different churches. It was a wonderful day, focused on the theme "mission matters," and ended with the Stop Hunger Now hands-on activity. We were blessed to have Judy Persons, Vice-Moderator of Mission Relations from Church-wide, who shared with us the exciting news that our invitation from Geneva Presbytery to become the next geographical area for a PW PCUSA mission experience had been accepted. A little seed that Virginia planted in 2015 has now become reality.

We rejoice and celebrate with our sister Virginia on the good news that she has been selected as our Synod's delegate to the 2017 PW Global Exchange to Indonesia. We will be planning an event next year as part fundraiser and part celebration. We will hope that all in our presbytery, not just the women, will want to support Virginia in her preparations for this wonderful opportunity. To her we say, "selamat!" ("Congratulations" in Indonesian).

We continue to pray for peace and normalcy to return to South Sudan. Two of the eight classrooms in our Mayen Abun Girls School have been completed. Twic State, where the school is located, remains conflict-free. I have word that our mission co-workers Lynn and Sharnon Kandel have returned to Juba and Lesia Wagstaff who was evacuated to Kenya in July will be returning soon. The Smith-Mather family is on parental leave in the US at present. Thank you for our continued prayers for them all. Judy Persons indicated to me that the first round of grant funding should be coming to building Minds in South Sudan this month.

Our coordinating team recently held a luncheon at the Geneva Church to honor Virginia for her years of service as Moderator, from 2007-2016 . . . 9 years of mission and ministry and faithful leadership. Randy Kennard of Western Presbyterian in Palmyra crafted a beautiful glass plaque which was presented to her. We all recognize Virginia for her inspiration and dedication to Presbyterian Woman at all levels, from her own congregation to Church-wide.

News from our PW mission in Cuba let us know that the destruction from Hurricane Matthew is quite devastating in the easternmost part of the island. We are encouraged to stand in the GAP (Give. Act. Pray.) and support the efforts of Presbyterian Disaster Assistance in providing assistance through Act Alliance in Cuba and Haiti and other Caribbean nations and within our own southeastern states.

(Synod Mission & Ministry commission)

6. Receive the report of the recent meeting of the Synod of the Northeast, and the work of the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission):

Virginia Champlin, along with Leah Ntuala and Jane Winters, attended racism training provided by Crossroads Anti-Racism. It was excellent!!

Jeff Richards (Commissioner to Synod) reported that he was impressed by the organizations of presentations and with the processes used by the Synod during the meeting. He noted that an increase in Synod per capita, from \$4.00 to \$4.10, was approved. He was intrigued that the Synod is having the same conversations about accumulated assets as congregations are having. He was impressed with the vibrancy of the synod gathering, and found it inspiring, as a first-timer.

Katherine Griffis shared that she was glad she was elected to attend, and enjoyed expanding on the relationships she developed during the Gather at the Table event earlier in the year. She was impressed with the Synod's work on policy issues and programming. She spoke appreciatively of the Synod's passion for inclusion of YAADs, non-elder representatives, and persons of color. Katherine noted that there has been follow-up after the shared trip to the Youth Triennium by Geneva and Cayuga Syracuse. There was excitement that Synod has begun the conversation about post-Triennium activities, and that Geneva and Cayuga Syracuse have already taken action and made plans. She shared how she is planning to share the ministry of the Synod with her session and congregation and asked, "What do we want to do to help Synod work connect with our presbyteries and our congregations?"

Virginia Champlin noted that she learned that there needs to be an Alternate for her position on the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission. She will connect with the Nominating Committee about this need.

Virginia noted that there was great appreciation for Amaury Tañon Santos' presence with us at the recent presbytery meeting.

OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS (No action by Council was required):
(Williamson)

Russ Roth reported for the Williamson Administrative Commission.

The Commission has reached agreement with the Williamson session, and all documents have been submitted to the attorneys. The building will be sold to the congregation for \$1.00. The congregation will pay this year's per capita (at their 2016 membership) and per capita for 2017 and 2018. A check for approximately \$11,000.00 will be sent to the Presbytery of Geneva.

TRANSITIONAL LEADER SEARCH TEAM / BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

The Moderator clarified that the action before the presbytery is the proposed budget for a 60% time Transitional Leader. He introduced David Ashby, who presented the report of the Transitional Leader Search Team; and Timothy Johnson, Chair of the Budget & Finance Committee.

The team has received and begun reviewing applications for the 60% position, and has begun initial interviewing. The team has considered carefully the options for building an attractive package for the position.

By a counted vote, the presbytery VOTED to approve the proposed 2017 budget (38 yes / 7 no). The presbytery approved a request that the Moderator and the Interim Transitional Leader prepare a pastoral letter to the congregations, pastors, and leaders of the presbytery regarding the action of the presbytery.

Prior to the vote, opportunity was given for questions and clarifications. Among the concerns and issues raised were the following:

Currently, seven churches have not remitted per capita, and will not. The total amount is @ \$23,000. The anticipated receipts from per capita contributions reflects a 5% reduction: building into the budget the reduction in per capita payments.

Under the proposed budget, the per capita amount for 2017 will rise from \$44 to \$50.

How will per capita be addressed?

- This represents a 13.6% increase in the obligation of congregations. There is a concern for all of our churches in light of the increase and its impact on church budgets.
- Per capita has been at \$44 for four to five years. The Budget & Finance Committee has realized that an increase should have been incremental during that time. Concern has been raised about the need to consider the effect of the consistent decrease in the presbytery's membership. In a sense, this increase is playing "catch-up."
- The Budget & Finance Committee will follow up with churches not remitting their per capita.

The Synod of the Northeast is encouraging a change in mindset, to one of abundance. So often, finances drive the ministry, rather than ministry driving finances.

What is Budget & Finance doing regarding the overall purpose and ministry of the presbytery (i.e. "What are we giving to, and what are we giving for?").

Following the question / response period, the presbytery engaged in debate on the motion. The debate included the following information and concerns:

- Camp Whitman has engaged in a reduction of expenses. Office expenses have been reduced from \$50,000 to \$27,000.
- Regarding the budget: What could we strike, if needed? What could we eliminate, and still be OK?
- Concern about the impact of raising per capita by such a significant amount at the same time that the Minimum Terms of Call have been increased. How will this be interpreted to our congregations?

Additional Items

The Camp Whitman Board presented the 2017 budget for Camp Whitman, for first reading. A vote on the proposed budget will be taken during the January 2018 stated meeting of the presbytery.

The Budget & Finance Committee will be addressing the question, "How will we arrive at a figure for general mission giving?" Considerations will include:

- Past performances plus a percentage increase
- What would be a "fair share" for giving?

The Committee invites suggestions for moving forward in a way that is both helpful and healthy.

What is being done to interpret to the presbytery where mission contributions are going?

- There has been no committee charged with interpreting that question.

- The General Council will be working on a list of the specific recipients for mission funding (grants, spending, mission supported by the presbytery).

PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Phoebe Baker, Chair, presented the report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee. She thanked the members of the Committee for their diligence and hard work. She offered appreciation to the Rev. Cheryl Peoples, who is ending her term of service on the Nominating Committee. On behalf of the Nominating Committee, she expressed a deep thank you to all who prayerfully and carefully considered the invitation to serve the presbytery.

The presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons:

Subcommittee on Personnel

Class of 2019:

The Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls)
The Rev. Cheryl Peoples (Trumansburg)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Class of 2019:

Elder John Gingerich (Wolcott)
Elder Lois Wafler (Huron)

Grant Mission Team

Class of 2018:

Elder Sharon Schied (Hammondsport)

Class of 2019:

The Rev. Jane Winters (Elmira, Westminster)
Elder Mark Palmeri (Geneva)

Committee on Polity & Review

Class of 2019:

Elder Kris Alling (Trumansburg)
The Rev. Jim Yao (Hector / Lodi)

Board of Directors, Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake

Class of 2017:

Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer)
Elder Rebecca Cowan (Elmira, First)
Elder Phil Opdycke (Palmyra, Western)
Elder George Poorman (Waterloo)
Elder Beth Whitbeck (Lyons)

Committee on Representation

Class of 2017:

Elder Phoebe Baker (Newark)
The Rev. Jim Gerling, HR

Class of 2018:

Elder Larry Bates

Presbytery Vice-Moderator

The Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao (Watkins Glen)

Budget & Finance Committee

Class of 2019:

The Rev. Jamie Tyrell, HR
Elder Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western)

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2019

The Rev. Jim Hicks, HR
Elder Bill Fox (Geneva)
Elder Dick Schied, CRE (Hammondsport, serving Weston)
The Rev. Rob Mellgard (Ovid Federated)
Elder Carol Merrell (Wolcott)

Committee on Property for the Presbytery of Geneva

Class of 2019:

Elder Dexter Benedict (Geneva)

Synod of the Northeast

Commissioner, Class of 2018

Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)

Alternate member of the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission, Class of 2018

Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)

BREAK (10 MINUTES)

WORSHIP

The service of the Lord's Supper was led by Elder Peggy Schuckers (Corning, First) and the Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz (Corning, First). The Rev. Ugoretz presented the sermon based on Philippians 2:1-11, *A Crisis of Humility*. The Lord's Supper was served by members of First Presbyterian Church, Corning. The service included grace for the meal.

LUNCH

The presbytery reconvened with prayer offered by Dick Schied.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

John Gingerich and Kirianne Weaver Riehl, Co-chairs, reported for the Committee on Preparation of Ministry.

Kirianne Riehl introduced Patricia Kapusta, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY. Patricia has been received by the Committee as an Inquirer. She is currently enrolled in the Distance Learning Program of Bethany Seminary, Richmond, Indiana (a seminary of the Church of the Brethren).

Patricia spoke briefly, describing her journey to this point in her spiritual life.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Jane Winters presented the report of the Committee on Ministry, on behalf of co-chairs A.J. Tierson and Ellen Donnan.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYRY'S ACTION

Upon recommendation by the Committee on Ministry, the Presbytery VOTED to:

(Commissioned Ruling Elders / Minimum Salary Schedule)

1. **Refer back** to the Committee on Ministry the following Minimum Salary Schedule for CRE's & CCE's and payment for pastoral administrative services as follows:

CRE – 75% of Full Time Pastor Salary
(75% of \$48,706= \$36,529.50)

3/8 time = \$13,699 effective salary
\$1,047.97 = SECA
\$375.00 = study leave

1/4 time = \$9,132 effective salary
\$698.60 SECA
\$250. study leave

Certified Christian Educator – 85% of Full time Pastor Effective Salary
(85% of \$48,706=\$41,400)

Full Time: \$41,400 effective salary
\$3,167.10 = SECA
\$15,111.00 = BOP
\$1,000.00 = study leave

3/4 time = \$31,050 effective salary

**PRESBTERY OF GENEVA
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\$2,375.33 = SECA
\$11,333.00 = BOP
\$750.00 = study leave

½ time = \$20,700 effective salary
\$1,539 = SECA
\$7,556 = BOP
\$500.00 = study leave

3/8 time = \$15,525 effective salary
\$1,118.66 = SECA
\$5,667 = BOP
\$375.00 = study leave

¼ time = \$10,350 effective salary
\$791.78 = SECA
\$3,778 = BOP
\$250.00 = study leave

(Mileage, vacation and study leave the same as clergy minimum salary schedule).

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

Acting on behalf of the presbytery, the Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

1. **Appoint** the Rev. Robin Lostetter as moderator of the session of the Lyons, NY Presbyterian Church.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

(Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao)

1. **Approve** the Covenant Agreement for Interim Service between First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY and the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao to continue interim service beginning November 16, 2016 and will be accountable to the church session and as a Ministry during the period of this covenant agreement.

Terms of Call

Cash Salary	\$47,056.60 (of this, \$4,400 annually will be tax deferred salary, placed into 403b9 plan with Fidelity through PCUSA)
Housing allowance	2,500.00
Dental coverage	443.40
Total Effective Salary	\$50,000

Pension & Medical Benefits	\$16,416.00
Moving expenses	0
Vacation	1 month including 4 Sundays (accrued quarterly)
Continuing Ed	\$1,000 (reimbursed as used, and 14 annually, including 2 Sundays)
Reimbursed Ministry Expenses	\$1,000
Automobile	IRS rate per mile (reimbursed as used) 2016 .54/mile)

This agreement is for a period of 12 months commencing November 16, 2016. This agreement may be terminated by either party upon 30 days written notice.

(Rev. Bruce Imre Incze)

2. **NOTE:** This item is presented for presbytery's information. Action will be taken during the January 2017 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva.

The Presbyterian Church of Arkport, NY, PCUSA solemnly calls Rev. Bruce Imre Incze to undertake the office of Solo Pastor of this congregation, beginning at the earliest possible date after the examination by Presbytery in January. COM **APPROVED** the terms and send it to Presbytery for action in January.

Terms of Call:

Cash Salary	\$35,000
Housing Allowance	15,000

**PRESBTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, CORNING
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Total Effective Salary	50,000
SECA (7.65% of Effective Salary)	3,825
Board of Pensions	18,250
Voucher expenses	1,500
Total	\$73,575

Board of Pensions

(Full medical, pension, disability, and death benefit coverage under the Board of Pension.)

Note: If Bruce may be excluded from the Board of Pensions medical plan, the church will reimburse payments of up to \$1,042 per month for the Blue Cross Federal Employee Program which is available to Bruce and his wife.)

Medical:	\$12,250
Pension	5,500
Death & Disability	500
Total Board of Pensions	\$18,250

Expenses Reimbursed by voucher submitted quarterly

Auto/Travel allowance (IRS rate)	
Book Allowance	500.
Continuing Ed/Study Leave	\$1,000
Paid vacation	4 weeks, no more than 4 Sundays
Paid Continuing Ed/Study Leave;	2 weeks; no more than 2 Sundays

Relocation expenses: All reasonable, vouchered, household moving expenses from Saint Robert, MO to Arkport, NY will be reimbursed.

(Report Form for Commissioned Ruling Elders)

3. **Approve** the 2016 Annual Report Form of Commissioned Ruling Elder and Pulpit Supply Commissioned to serve at the Lord's Table.

(Addison / Term Limits)

4. **Approve** a Waiver of Term Limits: for Addison Presbyterian Church

Moderator-Elect Elder Joann Braun assumed leadership of the meeting.

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING

Moderator Dick Schied led a Service commissioning Elder Bessie Tyrell, CRE to the service of the Lord's Supper.

MODERATOR'S REPORT

Dick Schied presented his Moderator's Report, as follows:

Moderator's Report: Listening Sessions 2016

During the summer of 2016, I, as Moderator of Presbytery, traveled to five churches throughout the Presbytery and invited pastors, church leaders, members of congregations, and other interested parties, to meet with me for a "listening session" where they could ask questions, make comments, raise concerns, state opinions, on any of the various aspects of the Presbytery of Geneva or the Presbyterian Church in general. Among the five sites (Penn Yan, Ovid, Newark, Hornell and Horseheads) a total of 55 participants from 17 member churches spent two evening hours discussing, sharing, debating and eating pizza.

I will say right off, being at these listening sessions has been the highlight of my time as Moderator so far. The range of questions and opinions covered down-to-earth concerns about where our local mission monies go to broad questions about the social and political nature of the PCUSA. While some participants expressed wariness about the "intent" of conducting these sessions (did Presbytery have a hidden agenda?), I came away at the end of each session with a sense that people felt they had a true chance to say what was on their mind without retort or fear of repercussions. Some even expressed that this was the first time anyone from Presbytery had ever cared to hear what they had to say about the church.

I also came away from these sessions keenly aware that Presbyterians are not all cut by the same cookie cutter. As an

example, one participant asked why Presbyterian worship services are so routine and lifeless, saying, "In Florida I go to an independent church and there's music, clapping, video, and a whole lot of energy. I come away so inspired!" At the next session, another participant asked, "Why do we have to have all this rock music, dancing in the aisles and other distractions in church? Church should be a calm, quiet and holy time."

Despite the obviously diverse nature of our members, it was clear to me that the folks in the Presbytery of Geneva (POG) are interested in what happens in their churches and in the larger levels of the denomination. While it would not be possible to list all the areas of discussion that occurred at all five sites (I do take notes, but I'm better at listening), I will share several general areas that were common among the different groups.

CAMP WHITMAN: What is its future? Can we afford it? Is there a way to make it useful for more than 10 weeks a year? How do we (the people in the pews) find out about the outcomes at the end of the season? What happened to the "work team" that used to handle lots of the repairs during the year?

PCUSA: Why does it get involved in issues like climate change, fossil fuels, immigration, homosexuality, etc.? Shouldn't we be focusing on building our spiritual relationship with God? What does PCUSA do for our individual churches?

YOUTH: How can the POG help us get more youth in church? (Bet you never saw that one coming!) Can POG hire interns to do youth ministry among several churches? Could POG work with other denominations to develop Christian Ed opportunities? What happened to the youth events that used to happen Presbytery-wide?

MISSION: How do we find out where our mission monies (POG) go? Can we get a list of mission projects? Could we hear about other churches who have successful mission projects so we could get ideas. How can POG help small churches connect with each other to do joint mission?

POG: What's going on with finding a new Executive Presbyter? Who do we go to for help without an EP? Is there an organizational chart that tells what each committee is responsible for? How can POG help us small churches grow? Why does it take so long to get anything done (find a new pastor)? Why doesn't POG provide any training for people elected to serve on PNC's? Why isn't the website more user friendly? Why isn't there an alphabetical listing of clergy if you know a name but don't know what church they serve?

In some cases I had answers, and in other cases I had wondered the same thing myself. Some of the questions raised were indeed already being addressed. The "cluster groups" that were formed in the spring spoke to the concern about bringing small churches together for common mission. Reports from Camp Whitman are presented at Presbytery meetings and are posted on the POG website. Plans are being made to update and simplify the POG website to make it more user friendly. The search for a Transitional Leader is well in progress and the next major step will occur at this coming Presbytery meeting.

Some of the questions have already been passed along to individuals and committees as appropriate. We will be working on an alphabetical directory of pastors, as well as preparing short descriptions of the many organizations and activities that receive Presbytery mission funds. And Camp Whitman would LOVE to have volunteers come to work on projects and repairs at the Camp.

As in any organization, good communication can help avoid problems and concerns, or poor communication can create problems or make them worse. I know that Presbytery leadership have their sights set on improving the lines of communication, but it takes all of us to be most effective. This report, for example, is online for anyone to read.

As leaders in your own congregation, will you let others know about it?

Will you download a copy and post it, or make it a bulletin insert so those who attended the listening sessions will know that their concerns were not forgotten by the time I drove away?

Will you encourage non-delegates to Presbytery to attend a meeting or two to hear the discussions and debates first-hand?

These questions are not intended to throw the burden all on you, but sometimes we forget that just because WE know something, that doesn't mean EVERYONE ELSE knows it, too.

I hope you find this report useful. I certainly found the sessions to be helpful, and I certainly hope they continue in some form in the future. And now I must go to try to remedy another small problem that was raised – How do we get more people in the pews? (If I have that one solved by the Presbytery meeting, I will share it with you.)

Blessings in Christ,

Dick Schied Moderator

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Rev. Timothy Johnson, HR presented the Resolution of Thanks:

Whereas this is a holiday weekend, with three days that beckon many people—including Presbyterians—to do other things or go other places.

Whereas the sun also beckons those who have leaves to rake.

Whereas Corning is a “fur piece” for those in the North to travel to.

Nevertheless: We heartily praise and give thanks to the people of the Corning church for their hospitality, which includes, but is not limited to:

- ❖ The well-placed parking signs
- ❖ The warm and enthusiastic welcome
- ❖ The before-meeting coffee and treats
- ❖ The sound amplification
- ❖ The large screen
- ❖ The delicious lunch and attentive wait staff

So, let us now show our thanks and appreciation to our hosts and hostesses for making this a wonderful time. [Applause from the presbytery]

CLOSING

The presbytery VOTED to adjourn the meeting. Moderator-elect Joann Braun offered the closing prayer.

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk

**Next Meeting of the Presbytery:
Saturday January 28, 2017 ~ [Tentative Location: Bellona Memorial Presbyterian Church, Benton, NY]**

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