

General Council Report to the Presbytery
September 19, 2015 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Lyons, NY
[From the General Council meetings of July 28, 2015 and September 8, 2015.]

FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The General Council VOTED to recommend that the presbytery:

(Temporary Standing Rules)

1. **Adopt** the revised *Temporary Standing Rules* as approved and presented by the General Council.
[See Attachment A]

(Addenda to Standing Rules)

2. **Receive for first reading**, a request that the presbytery approve Addenda A-Z and AA in its entirety, with action contemplated during the November stated meeting of the presbytery. **[See Attachment B]**

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(Synod Administrative Review Committee)

1. **Provide** to the presbytery the full SARC report to the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission via the presbytery website; and to have members of the SARC present at the September presbytery meeting. The website posting will include the information that, should presbyters have questions, the contact persons will be Gail Heimberger (General Council Chair) and David Kilgore (Presbytery Moderator); and Tom Bailey (regarding questions related to Camp Whitman). The posting will note that the Report represents the work through March, 2015, with small changes made since that time. The Council received the official Synod response on July 27, 2015.

2. **Place on the General Council calendar** a visit with the Synod Administrative Review Committee, during the June 2016 General Council meeting, for evaluation and follow-up.

(Fairville Presbyterian Church, Arcadia)

3. **Appoint** a Response Team to meet with the session and congregation regarding the options and the processes for achieving their desired goals. The Response Team will include the liaison from Committee on Ministry (Paul Salisbury), the Stated Clerk Pro-tem (Val Fowler), and—if the way be clear—Kirk Baker (Park, Newark).

(Williamson)

4. **Appoint** a Response Team comprised of Paul Salisbury (liaison), Deb Grohman (Ontario Center), Nancy Ferrell (H.R.). The Stated Clerk Pro-Tem will attend, ex officio. Other possibilities are Lois Wafler and Carol Merrill. The next session meeting is August 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

(Corning Chinese Community Church)

5. **Authorize**, if the way be clear enrolling the Rev. Ou Yang as a member of the Board of Pensions (PCUSA) effective September 1, 2015, dues to be paid to the presbytery by the CCCC.

The congregation has called a minister, effective September 1, 2015. In the past the pastor was authorized to participate in the Board of Pensions program.

(Connections with Smaller Congregations)

6. **Appoint** three persons to work together on the presbytery's ministry to very small churches, and devise a plan for developing and maintaining contact with those churches. The three persons will be: David Kilgore, Donna Colvin, Tim Johnson, Tom Bailey, Ellen Reynolds. Val Fowler will serve ex-officio. David Kilgore will be the "convenerator."

(Presbytery Office / Cleaning Service)

7. **Re-hire** the cleaning service through December 31, 2015, and **authorize** Jim Yao to make the contact regarding the service (the previous contract was \$100/week)

Rationale:

The presbytery office hasn't had a cleaning person since June, and Karen Jensen has not been able to recruit someone to do so. She offered a recommendation to return to the cleaning service that was used some years ago.

(Administrative Assistant / Vacation)

8. Karen Jensen reported that she and her husband will be leaving from the September 19, 2015 meeting for three days. Further, she and her husband will be sharing a time share with Karen's sister which will mean that she will not be present in November. Kris Alling will work with Karen in September, in preparation for substituting in November. Painted Post will likely be the location for the November 10, 2015 presbytery meeting. Karen will be on vacation August 13, returning on September 1, 2015.

(Camp Whitman / By Laws Revision)

9. **Receive** the proposed revisions of the Camp Whitman By-Laws for first reading, anticipating a vote during the September meeting of the General Council. At a later time the Council will recommend that the presbytery include the document in the Presbytery Standing Rules.

History/Rationale

At the beginning of this year, the Camp Whitman Advisory Board had not met for two years. Representatives from the presbyteries of Genesee Valley and Geneva have worked on new by-laws and the development of a new Camp Whitman Board.

The recommendation was made to adopt the recommendations and make them a part of the Presbytery Standing Rules. Upon approval, the General Council will serve as Camp Operator, supervising the Board of Camp Whitman, who will act on behalf of the Camp Operator. The proposal recommends a Board of nine persons: 5 from the Presbytery of Geneva and 4 from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. The Chair would come from Geneva; the Vice-Chair would be from Genesee Valley. Both of these recommendations reflect the Presbytery of Geneva's ownership of Camp Whitman.

(Temporarily Restricted Funds)

10. **Place** the Temporarily Restricted Funds in a new account the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation New Covenant Funds, invested in the Income Fund.

Rationale

As we recover "borrowed" restricted funds (which could eventually total over \$230,000), we think it best to put them in a new account invested with a lower-risk fund that will earn more than a savings account but still be relatively safe.

(2014 Audit)

11. **Accept** the results of the 2014 financial audit of our presbytery and approve signing the Representation Letter to our auditors, Heveron and Company. [See **Attachment C**]

Rationale

The committee has reviewed the documents and feels they fairly represent the financial position of the presbytery. Once the Representation Letter is signed and returned to Heveron and Company, they will issue the official final audit documents.

(Financial Policies)

12. **Accept** the draft *Presbytery of Geneva Financial Policies*, and present them to the presbytery for first reading during the September meeting of the presbytery. [See **Attachment D.**]

(Presbytery Office)

13. **Communicate** to the Budget & Finance Committee that the General Council will proceed on the assumption that we will be using this building for the next year.

The October Council meeting will include a model of reflecting on the pros/cons of the decision to keep the building and the pros/cons of not keeping the building.

(Approval of Congregational Projects)

14. **Approve** a roof repair project for the Bellona Memorial Presbyterian Church, Benton, NY.

15. **Approve** a furnace replacement project for the First Presbyterian Church, Arkport, NY.

(Arkport)

16. **Approve** transmitting to the General Assembly a letter from the session of First Presbyterian Church, Arkport, NY, protesting the action taken by the 221st General Assembly approving same-sex marriage.

(Temporary Presbytery Leader)

17. **Approve** a recommendation from the presbytery Personnel Committee that the Personnel Committee be authorized to prepare a job description for a Temporary Presbytery Leader (5-6 months), to search for a person to fill that position.

18. **Appoint**, if the way be clear, the following committee to search for a Temporary Presbytery Leader: the Rev. Jim Kerr, the Rev. Betsey Crimmins, Elder Beth Haines-He, Elder Bob Seem, Elder Tom Bailey.

(West Virginia Mission Trip)

19. **Approve** release of \$600.00 of the West Virginia Reserve Fund for the West Virginia Mission Trip this fall.

(Smaller Churches)

20. **Appoint** the following persons to study issues common to smaller churches, in an effort to provide more effective support for their ministries: the Rev. Tim Johnson, Elder Ellen Reynolds, the Rev. Ellen Donnan, Elder Donna Colvin, and the Rev. David Kilgore (convener).