

**General Council Report to the Presbytery**  
**January 30, 2016 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Hammondsport, NY**  
[From the General Council meetings of December 8, 2015 and January 12, 2016.]

Items in *italics* will be presented in for presbytery's action in reports separate from the General Council Report.

**FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION**

The General Council VOTED to recommend that the presbytery:  
*There were no such items from the December and January meetings.*

**ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION**

The General Council VOTED to:

**(Contribution to Graham Andrus Scholarship Fund, SUNY Fredonia)**

1. **Contribute** a \$1,200.00 grant to the Graham Andrus Scholarship Fund at SUNY Fredonia, matching and exceeding the amount of donations previously given by members of the presbytery. The donation will be made from presbytery mission giving.

**(Wellspring Fellowship)**

2. **Agree in principle** with an agreement with Wellspring Fellowship for use of a portion of the Presbytery Office, if the way be clear.

**Background**

Karen Jensen was approached by Penn Clark, a representative of the Wellspring Fellowship (a Mennonite-based community), who rents Camp Whitman annually for a whole week. He inquired as to available office space in the Presbytery Office. The Fellowship is in the process of writing books, and needs the space and the office equipment. They would like to rent an office plus the chapel area. Lea Kone indicated that she was willing to have Wellspring rent her office (connected to the chapel area), with Lea using the former Executive Presbyterian office. Penn Clark himself would be here every day, with one or two other staff. They would want to use the presbytery's wi-fi for phone service; they will bring any office equipment that they need for their work.

The Treasurer, Milt Erb, suggested that it is a good idea, pending information about pro-rated costs for the current costs of the building. Tom Bailey would be willing to work on the numbers, with information provided by Milt. The oncoming member of the Property Committee, Jim Hopkins, will be included in the conversations.

**(Pulpit Supply List – Contact Information)**

3. **Approve a request** to place both phone numbers and e-mail addresses for all persons on the Pulpit Supply List, so that contacts and arrangements may more easily be made by churches seeking pulpit supply.

**(Camp Whitman – Electrical Power Expansion)**

4. **Approve** a grant of \$7,500 from the Vittum Fund for provision of a new 200 amp line, and running a 100 amp line to the Pine Camp.

**Background**

The Camp Whitman Operating Team requested that \$7500 be drawn from the Vittum Fund (for Camp Whitman) for a 200 amp line to correct the loss of power to the Pine Camp last year, and to provide for any future expansion. Work would start in three weeks and will be operational for the 2016 camp season.

5. **Receive** the proposal from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, which will become their operating document.  
[See **Appendix A**]

6. **Authorize** Tom Bailey to convene the five Geneva Presbytery board members to share what has transpired; to designate one of the five as Chair; and to prepare for a meeting which will include the representatives of Genesee Valley.

**(Temporary Presbytery Leader)**

7. **Appoint** the Rev. Bronwen Boswell to be the Temporary Presbytery Leader, for a six-month contract (0.6 time). Jim Yao noted that the position is budgeted for half-time, so if this motion is approved, the amount will be over budget by the end of the year. The effective date will be Monday January 18, 2016. Housing Allowance must be approved by the General Council, to satisfy IRS regulations. The terms of the contract are:

Effective Salary                    \$19,404.00 (0.6 time, six months)  
Board of Pensions Dues  
Travel expense at the IRS rate  
Participation in the Flexible Spending Plan of Presbytery of Geneva (maximum amount for six months:  
\$600.00)

The Temporary Presbytery Leader will be present at the Presbytery Office at least 2 days a week. The Temporary Presbytery Leader will be present at Council and COM meetings. Because of this, Tuesday will probably be her "regular day" at the Presbytery Office.

**(Presbytery Nominating Committee)**

8. Elect the following person to the Presbytery Nominating Committee:

Class of 2018: Sylvia Dorschel (Sodus)

**OTHER INFORMATION ITEMS**

**(Williamson)**

The congregation met on October 18, 2015 and voted to explore leaving the PCUSA. 59% of the congregation was present for the meeting; 76% of those voting were in favor of exploring dismissal to another Reformed body. The session is hoping to have a recommendation in early January. The session is aware that the process of transferring may not be complete until the May meeting of the presbytery.

**(Presbytery Office Copier)**

Karen Jensen contacted Xerox, EBC, and Usherwood for quotes on a copier. Usherwood's quotation was about \$30 more than current leasing. Karen contacted Toshiba, who proposed a 36-month lease with the addition of a monitor for color copying. Currently, the copier runs at about 4,500 b&w copies/month; the office has worked on reducing that to 3,500 b&w copies. The proposed lease contract will be about half of the current copy lease cost.

**APPENDIX A**

**Proposal for Camp Whitman Transitional Team (from Genesee Valley)**

**I. Purpose**

The mission of the Transitional Team is to provide advice, guidance, support and advocacy in support of the programming offered at Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, a summer camp owned and operated by the Presbytery of Geneva. The Team's role is advisory to the Council of Geneva Presbytery, the Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake Camp Director, and, as needed, to the members of the Presbyteries of Geneva and Genesee Valley.

The Transitional Team serves as an advocacy group within these two presbyteries and will assist in promoting a positive image of the camp, encouraging youth and families to participate in camp programs, and fostering linkages between the camp and the member churches of the cooperating presbyteries.

**II. Objectives**

In addition to advocacy, the Team shall review potential organizational and operational structures, including the possibility of a separate, not-for-profit entity, and how that might be structured. At the completion of the one-year term, the Transitional Team will report on these matters to both presbyteries.

**III. Membership**

Four representatives shall be appointed by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley for a one year term.

*From the Camp Whitman Leadership Team, to present to Genesee Valley Presbytery Council on Monday, January 11, 2016*