

**General Council Report to the Presbytery**  
**November 12, 2016**  
**First Presbyterian Church, Corning, NY**

**FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION**

The General Council VOTED to recommend that the presbytery:

**(2017 Presbytery Meeting Dates)**

**Approve** the following dates for presbytery meetings in 2017 (locations still to be determined):

Saturday January 28  
Tuesday March 28  
Saturday May 20  
Tuesday September 26  
Saturday November 18

**(Nominating Committee)**

[NOTE: The following recommendation may be presented in a separate report from the Presbytery Nominating Committee. They are reported here to record the General Council's action supporting the recommendation of the Nominating Committee.]

**Elect** the following persons to serve the Presbytery of Geneva:

**Subcommittee on Personnel**

**Class of 2019:**

The Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls)  
The Rev. Cheryl Peebles (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

**Vice-Moderator, General Council**

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)

### **(Report of Full Financial Review, 2015)**

1. **Receive** the report of the 2015 Full Financial Review, conducted by Heveron & Heveron Company. [See **Attachment A**, at the end of this report.]

### **ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY:**

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

#### **(Nominating Committee)**

1. **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:

#### **(Office Expenses)**

**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)**

**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)**

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

#### **(Presbyterian Women)**

**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 Sharon 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)**

**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.