

**Agenda for the Stated Meeting
of the Presbytery of Geneva**
Tuesday, September 16, 2014
to be held at First Presbyterian Church of Elmira
The Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins, Host 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.*

Proposed Docket

- **9:30 a.m.** Registration

We Gather In God's Name

- **10:00 a.m.** Call to Order/Presbytery convened with prayer
 - Declaration of a Quorum
 - Welcome of Stated Clerk Pro Tem – the Rev. Val Fowler,
Stated Clerk Genesee Valley Presbytery, Clerk Pro Tem Presbytery
of Geneva
 - Enrollment of Corresponding Members
 - Welcome of New Elder Commissioners
 - Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting
 - Approval of the Docket
 - Welcome from the Host Church
 - Resolution of Thanks

We Hear the Word of God

- 10:15 a.m. Worship

We Respond to the Word of God

- 11:15 a.m. 1.0 Report of the Stated Clerk
- 11:30 a.m. 2.0 Report – Introduction of the SARC
- 11:45 a.m. 3.0 Report of Synod Council
- 12:00 p.m. LUNCH provided by the Host Church
- 12:45 p.m. 4.0 Report of General Assembly Commissioners
- 1:00 p.m. 5.0 Report of Camp Whitman
- 1:15 p.m. 6.0 Report of General Council
- 1:30 p.m. 7.0 Report of Budget and Finance
- 1:45 p.m. 8.0 Report of Personnel
- 2:00 p.m. 9.0 Report of Nominations
- 2:15 p.m. 10.0 Report of the Committee on Ministry
- 2:30 p.m. 11.0 Report of the Committee on Preparation for the Ministry
- 2:45 p.m. 12.0 Report of Presbyterian Women
- 3:00 p.m. 13.0 Report of Mission Funding
- 3:15 p.m. 14.0 Reports of New Worshipping Communities
 - 14.1 Chinese Koinonia Administrative Commission
 - 14.2 Fusion on Fire
 - 14.3 Mercy Place New Church Development
 - 14.4 S² Report

We Go Forth to Share God's Word

- 3:30 p.m. Closing prayer and adjournment

As you go...

What has surprised you about today's meeting?

Who have you gotten to know better today?

What blessings have you experienced today?

Reports for 9/16/2014 Presbytery of Geneva Meeting

2.0 SARC

Those planning to attend are Rev. Bronwen Boswell, Rev. Victor McKusick and Rev. James Renfrew. It is possible that Elder Karen Pryor will also attend

Introduction of the Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC)

The Council of the Synod of the Northeast established a Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) to review the operations and procedures at the Geneva Presbytery. A SARC shall study and recommend action to the Council that established it. It is important to make the distinction between a SARC and an Administrative Commission. An Administrative Commission takes the reins and actually governs in the place of a council. On the other hand, a SARC in reviewing, studying, and recommending, is there to support the governing body.

Therefore, we the members of the Geneva Presbytery SARC see our role as walking alongside the Presbytery in this time of transition. Our purpose is not to dictate to you, but to be with you, as the Presbytery establishes its "best practices." Our hope is that we can offer a sense of healing and hope, while you, the Presbytery, establish policies and procedures, and your vision for the future.

The SARC hopes to give a report, complete with recommendations to the Synod Council by the end of the year. However, we are aware that the report may take longer to produce, and that we can be of further assistance to the Presbytery beyond the beginning of the year.

We have already spoken to council, and are in the process of setting up interviews to learn more about recent events. You too can help us in our work. An e-mail address has been set up for you to communicate with the members of the SARC. The e-mail is sarc@synodne.org. This is a confidential e-mail. Only members of the SARC will read these messages. Your correspondence with us will not be shared with anyone except among the members of the SARC. We want to assure you of the confidential nature of all that you share with us via this e-mail address.

The members of the SARC include:

Bronwen Boswell Teaching Elder Western New York

Bronwen serves as Presbyter of Discipleship, Communication and Transformation for the Presbytery of Western New York

Victor McKusick Teaching Elder Utica

Victor is currently between pastorates. He has just served a year as Moderator of the Presbytery of Utica, and is now Moderator of Presbytery Coordinating Council.

Karen Pryor Ruling Elder Genesee Valley

Karen has lead the Presbytery of Genesee Valley as their Interim Executive Presbyter. She is a member of the Presbytery's Vision and Strategy Committee.

Jim Renfrew Teaching Elder Genesee Valley

Jim is a Pastor. He brings a wealth of experience of leadership in conflicted churches. Jim is a self-admitted detail person. He is also serving as secretary of the SARC.

Hezekiah Simmons Ruling Elder Genesee Valley

Heze is a Ruling Elder and Member of the Presbyterian Church in Pittsford, NY. He is currently the Chief Financial Officer of Monroe County Community College

Lynnette Sparks Teaching Elder Genesee Valley

Lynette is currently an Interim Associate Pastor at Third Presbyterian Church in Rochester. She is the convener of the SARC.

Nancy Sprenkle Ruling Elder Genesee Valley

.....

4.0 Report of General Assembly Commissioners

Presbytery Report on 21st General Assembly June 14 – 21, 2014 Kristin T. Alling, Ruling Elder Commissioner

It was both exciting and exhausting to be able to represent our Presbytery at the 21st General Assembly June 14 – 21, 2014. I loved every minute of the amazing week. We worked hard. Most days started at 8:30 or 9 am and went to 8:30 at night and sometimes much later. At least the committee work was divided into various areas so you did not have to be knowledgeable in all things discussed. But you wanted to be! There were so many people there over 300 each TEC (Teaching Elder Commissioners) and REC (Ruling Elder Commissioners) each with a vote on all issues. 150 or more YAD (Youth Advisor Delegates) and many other representatives of other faiths and interests as well as the public. The YADs and other delegates voted but only as an advisory vote for the TEC and REC vote.

One of the fascinating happenings was the serving of communion to this vast audience. I don't know about your church but we struggle to serve less than 90 members in an expedient yet reverent manner. They served over 1000 and did it right. I was impressed with the number of folks who had differing views and could express those views in an intelligent polite manner. They did not reduce the floor to screaming even when the hot button items were discussed. The appropriate rotations of pros and cons were respected and listened to.

Reflection on the GA
Rev. James W. Kerr

Detroit was not frightening
Where we convened
Worship uplifting
The fellowship real
Yet an uncomfortable feel

Youth cried for action
"The future is theirs"
This was believed
As wisdom was scarce
And we raced to the dance

I sat in my silence
Technology buzzed
As we plowed through the docket
Getting things done, getting things done
Political action begun

Our churches are bleeding
Members are fleeing
As boldly we're shouting
What Dems are announcing
Does Jesus speak clearly
Of drones and divestment?
Yet scarcely a prayer
Was said in his name

I sat in my silence
In my grief and my sadness
Can others inform
The world of this platform?
And what needs said
That only we can say?
Jesus is Lord
Does this message bore?

Still I'm not frightened
Just wounded and tired
Still I seek Jesus
In a left leaning assembly

7.0 Report of Budget and Finance – Rev. Jim Yao, Chair

7.1 Results of the 2013 audit

7.2 2014 YTD financial report

7.3 Report about the 2015 budget

7.4 Report about designated accounts

9.0 Report of Nominations – Rev. Leah Ntuala, Chair

The Committee on Nominations places the following names into nomination:

- **Rebecca Cowan to Camp Whitman Board**
- **Donna Colvin as Synod Commissioner**
(This does require a vote of Presbytery)

The Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions for presbytery committee positions. All suggestions will be gratefully received and reviewed by the Nominating Committee. You may even suggest yourself for a position. Special consideration will be given for persons in churches with members not currently serving on committees, and for persons which may increase Presbytery's diversity.

You can email nominating@presbyteryofgeneva.org or send a letter to First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls 23 Cayuga St. Seneca Falls, NY 13148. If the Nominating Committee does not hear from you we will be calling you to ask for your suggestions. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

God Bless,

The Nominating Committee

11.0 Report of Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, Chair

CPM did its annual consultations - every one remains under care, so no action items at this time.

13.0 Report of Mission Funding – Rev. Jane Winters, Chair

(Separate Document)