

**General Council
Special meeting
Presbytery of Geneva
March 31, 2014**

Present: Richard Schied, Alice Tewell, David Kilgore, Jim Yao, Micah Beck, Amy Loving, Nancy Meehan Yao, Deborah Grohman, Leah Ntuala, Jim Kerr, Diana Becker

Absent with notice: Cheryl Peeples, Carol Limner, Ben Falter

Guests of Joelle Davis present: Beth Wood, Rev. Peter Kregg, Karen Jensen

Chair of General Council, ruling elder Dick Schied, called the meeting to order and opened the meeting with prayer.

A motion was made that Steve Plank be appointed Stated Clerk Pro Tem for this meeting. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the motion was **approved**.

Discussion was held with Joelle Davis about concerns that had come to the attention of the General Council. Joelle read an extended statement that addressed her thoughts and her views about her relationship with the Presbytery in general and with General Council in particular.

General discussion was held on concerns, and an opportunity was provided to ask questions to Joelle and to have her respond. Joelle and her guests then left the meeting.

Steve outlined the judicial process in the case of someone raising allegations of wrongdoing against an individual. His interpretation of the Constitution is that, if allegations were to be raised against Joelle, that properly would come to this Presbytery, not to Synod, since the Presbytery is the court of original jurisdiction for any potential judicial matters involving its members.

Dick Schied reported on a conversation he had with the attorney of Genesee Valley concerning the issues here. Steve was asked to explain the *Book of Order* provisions about administrative leave for staff, and he reviewed the two *Book of Order* citations addressing this, along with related matters from the *Annotated Book of Order*. The Constitution does not provide for an imposed administrative leave, with the exception of cases of alleged sexual abuse (D-10.0106).

A motion was made to send a letter, as reviewed by the General Council, to the Synod of the Northeast, requesting that they form a Special Administrative Review Committee to work with the Presbytery. The motion was seconded. After discussion, the motion was **approved**.

General discussion then was held concerning placing Joelle Davis on administrative leave, and general concerns that are present. After much discussion, it was decided to continue consideration of these issues at the regular General Council meeting on Tuesday, April 8.

The chair announced that there are some vacancies on committees of the Presbytery that General Council needs to fill. Positions need to be filled on the Park Administrative Commission, the Mercy Place Administrative Commission, and the Personnel Committee. The General Council appointed the Administrative Commissions, so it can act to fill vacancies on them. Leah Ntuala announced that Deb Grohman was approached by the Nominating Committee, and has agreed, to assume the role of chairperson of the Personnel Committee. General Council proceeded to elect her to this position. Teaching elder Nancy Farrell was nominated to fill a vacancy on the Park AC. Her nomination was seconded, and she was elected. The vacancy remains on the Mercy AC.

The General Council received and reviewed a letter to the Council from Ms. Karen Andrus, the mother of a child who drowned at Camp Whitman. The General Council will continue consideration of how to respond to Ms. Andrus. The issue of Joelle Davis' lack of response to this letter was referred to the Personnel Committee to follow up. Dick Schied offered to contact Ms. Andrus, apologize for the apparent lack of response from the Presbytery, and tell her that this matter will be given high priority for further discussion at the next meeting of General Council.

The General Council considered how to fill the position of Stated Clerk. Steve said that normally what would be involved is the establishment of a Search Committee to bring a nominee to the Presbytery for election.

Jim Yao from the Budget and Finance Chairperson brought to the General Council the issue of who can sign checks. The General Council **approved** a corporate resolution that Jim Yao and Gary Montgomery be authorized to sign checks for the Presbytery.

Nancy Meehan Yao closed the meeting with prayer at 9:25 p.m.

Steven W. Plank,
Stated Clerk Pro Tem