

Minutes of the Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva Tuesday June 27, 2013 held at the Presbyterian Church in Geneva

The meeting was called to order with prayer by the Moderator, Ruling Elder Donna Colvin, at 2:10 p.m.

Teaching Elders Present (24): Peter Crego, Joelle Davis, Jeff Falter, Janice Fitzgerald, Gail Heimberger, Timothy Johnson, Beverly Karr-Lyon, David Kilgore, Deborah Lind-Schmitz, Amy Loving, Paul Malles, James Moore, Cheryl Peeples, Lee Prong, Robert Rochelle, Marjory Roth, Russ Roth, A.J. Tierson, David VanWagnen, Diane Walker, Christy Wareham, Jane Winters, James Yao, Nancy Meehan Yao

Teaching Elders Excused (29): David Ashby, Joanne Bartel, Dean Bembower, Nancy Bidlespacher, Zane Bolinger, Fred Coffman, Gilmore Creelman, Betsey Crimmins, Harold Delhagen, Russell Duncan, Samuel Edwards, John Elder, Scott Flaherty, John Gould, David Hostetter, Kenneth Hood, Susan Husted, Jonathan Knight, Edward Meiser, Thomas Montgomery, Banu Moore, Leah Ntuala, Hugh Outterson, Ross Raymond, Blake Severson, Marlin Stewart, Gailey Teller, Alice Tewell, John Valk

Teaching Elders Absent (28): Kirk Baker, David Barnard, Bryan Bond, Norma Bond, Anne Campbell, Gary Chorpenning, Brian Diffenbacher, Ellen Donnan, Steve Dygert, Nancy J. Farrell, James Gerling, Todd Haines, Steven Jewell, Jeff Kellam, Glenn Kennedy, James Kerr, Donald Lester, Fred Magley, Peter Marr, Virginia Murray, James Newman, Suzanne Otterbacher, Richard Price, Herbert Tennies, James Tyrrell, Karl Warrington, Sarah West, Daniel Zhao

Ruling Elders Commissioned to Particular Pastoral Service Present (3): Priscilla Andrews, Steve Beals, Dick Schied

Ruling Elders Commissioned to Particular Pastoral Service Excused (0): Ruling Elder

s Commissioned to Particular Pastoral Service Absent (4): Richard Evans, Joy Novack, Donald Peek, Lucille Richmond

Ruling Elder Commissioners Present (18): Larry Bates (Bath), Jan Newby (Bellona), Bill Randolph (Fairville), Edwin Frick (Geneva), Linda Hayes (Huron), Kris Ward (Junius), Rosemary Guchone (Newark), Roberta Morris (Ovid), Sue Goodrich (Penn Yan), Nan Clark (Phelps), Gary Jones (Rock Stream), Jeannette L. Monterville (Seneca Falls), Chris Minns (Seneca #9), Linda Kataskas (Shortsville), Jim Hopkins (Sodus), C. Thomas Bailey (Spencer), Kate Merriman (Trumansburg), Carol Merrell (Wolcott)

Additional Ruling Elders and Others With Voice and Vote Present (4): Joshua Baker (East Palmyra and Fairville), Donna Colvin (Pulteney - Moderator), Virginia Champlin (Geneva - PW), Graham Wightman (Corning – General Assembly Commissioner)

Additional Ruling Elders and Others With Voice and Vote Excused (0):

Additional Ruling Elders and Others with Voice and Vote Absent (2): Micah Beck, Barbara Scudder

Church Educators present (0):

Guests Present (36): Frank All (Newark), Diana Becker (Seneca Falls), Keith Brill (Newark), Nadine Brill (Newark), Robert Chappell (Newark), Rodney Deisering (Newark), Elsie DeMeyers (Newark), Karen Doebler (Newark), William E. Doebler

(Newark), John E. Donaldson (Newark), Betty J. Faro (Newark), Howard J. Faro (Newark), Rodney Faro (Newark), Louise French (Genesee Valley Presbytery), Jane Hansen (Bellona), Ann J. Johnson (Ashbury United Methodist), Gary Jones (Rock Stream), John L'Hommedieu (Sodus), Shirley May (Newark), Greg Nassimos (Newark), Joe O'Leary (Rock Stream), Ann M. Peck (Newark), Allan Reeve (Newark), Curt Richardson (Fairville), Anne Rogers (Newark), Kenneth Rowe (Newark), Roxanna Rowe (Newark), Jeanne Salisbury (Newark), Paul Salisbury (Newark), Bette Schubert (Geneva), Becky Short (Newark), Cynthia Smith (Newark), Jonathan Taylor (Newark) Linda Werts (Newark), Beth Whitbeck (Lyons), Linda F. Wiltsie (Newark)

The Moderator declared that a quorum was present. A correction to the Procedures for Consideration of Motions and Debate was made as the Stated Clerk ruled one section incompliant. Dissents and protests were covered by the Stated Clerk.

It was requested that the Moderator call the meeting out of order under G-3.0303(e) of the Book of Order. It was ruled in order by the Moderator. It was **moved and seconded** to appeal the decision. They motion **failed** by a vote of eleven (11) for, thirty-two (32) against, and one (1) abstention.

It was **moved and carried** to grant privilege of the floor to guests who had registered as listed below. It was **moved and carried** to amend the consideration procedures to allow for Park Presbyterian Church's delegates to speak as long as needed.

The Committee on Ministry **moved** that the Presbytery of Geneva create an Administrative Commission with original jurisdiction for Park Presbyterian Church in Newark, New York. The powers of the Administrative Commission shall include, but not be limited to:

- The activities normally administrated by the Session
- Providing pulpit supply and pastoral care leaders for the congregation
- Developing leadership within the church
- Developing rules of conduct and a culture of civility
- Working toward reconciliation, as possible, including the use of professionals
- Ending legalistic means of controlling the church
- Consideration of the possible options for Park Presbyterian Church in light of G-3.0303b
- The provision of retreats, workshops, and other healing events for the current Session and congregational members

It was **moved and seconded** to refer the motion for assuming original jurisdiction, in all its parts and any amendments, to a committee to be chaired by a Committee on Ministry representative, with four additional members to be named in collaboration between the Park Presbyterian Church Session and the Committee on Ministry. The motion **failed**.

A five (5) minute break was declared at 4:45 p.m. by the Moderator. The Presbytery was reconvened with prayer by the Vice Moderator at 4:50 p.m.

It was **moved and seconded** to lay the question on the table. The vote **failed** by a vote of nine (9) for, thirty-two (32) against, and no abstentions.

It was **moved and seconded** to take a recess for dinner. The motion **failed**.

It was **moved and carried** to appoint Ruling Elder Dick Schied as the Vice Moderator pro tempore as the current Vice Moderator had to leave the meeting.

It was **moved and seconded** that if the main motion passed, that it not be enforced for five (5) business days to allow the Park Presbyterian Church Session to file an appeal to the Synod of the Northeast seeking a Stay of Enforcement. The motion **failed** by a vote of three (3) for, thirty-one (31) against, and no abstentions.

The main motion **passed** by a vote of twenty nine (29) for, five (5) against, and one (1) abstention.

It was **moved and carried** to approve the following people to serve as the Administrative Commission for the Park Presbyterian Church:

Ruling Elder Dick Schied, Hammondsport – Chair

Ruling Elder Diana Becker, Seneca Falls

Rev. Jim Gerling, H.R.

Ruling Elder John L’Hommedieu, Sodus

Rev. Virginia Murray, H.R.

Ruling Elder Tracy Patanzo, Lyons

Rev. Russ Roth

The following people entered **dissents** as allowed under G-3.0105a: Rev. Jeffrey Falter, Ruling Elder Rosemary Guchone (Park Church, Newark), and Rev. J. Christy Wareham.

The following **protest** was entered by the Rev. J. Christy Wareham as allowed under G-3.0105b:

I, J. Christy Wareham, a member of or commission to the Presbytery of Geneva, wish to protest the irregularity. The reasons for my protest are:

1. It reflects a flawed process involving misconduct by members of the Committee on Ministry, including Elder Paul Salisbury, Elder Tom Bailey, and Rev. Gail Heimberger.
2. A “thorough investigation” has not occurred and the investigation that did occur was not thorough.
3. It was not established and was never asked whether Session was willing to agree to this motion.
4. It was not demonstrated that Session cannot exercise its authority or that Session is unable or unwilling to manage wisely its affairs.
5. Committee on Ministry’s process was not clear in that some members did not remember certain parts of the motion as being included in the motion.
6. There are several related deficiencies, defects, and deleterious actions related to this motion.
7. Committee on Ministry ignored and was neglectful of its responsibilities as repeatedly requested by the Session.

It was **moved and carried** to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned with prayer by the Moderator at 7:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

The Rev. Dr. Joelle S. Davis

Executive Presbyter/Stated Clerk