

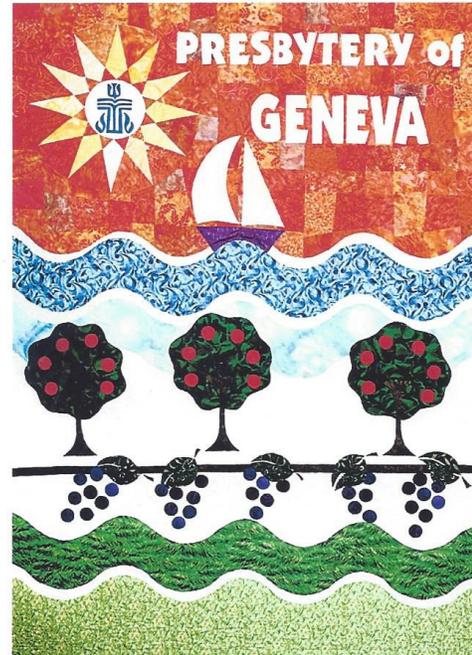
## Moderator's letter

*The Lord is risen! In this Easter season may you see signs of new life and hope all around you.*

*In this letter you will find information about:*

- The retreat
- PW – Spring Gathering
- Camp Whitman registrations
- The draft of Temporary Standing Rules
- Where We Are/Where Are We?
- A program on “The Good Funeral”
- Prayers

*David Kilgore*



### The Presbytery Retreat

There is still time to register for the Presbytery Retreat, set for Saturday, April 25 at the Geneva Church.

At this event, led by Dr. David Olsen, we hope to discover new directions and priorities for our presbytery.

### A Retreat for the Presbytery of Geneva

**Led by Dr. David Olsen  
Director of the Samaritan  
Counseling Center, Albany, NY**

**Saturday, April 25  
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**The Presbyterian Church in Geneva  
24 Park Place  
Parking lots and fellowship hall  
entrance on Washinton St.**

**RSVP to Karen Jensen at Presbytery Office  
by April 21. 315.536.7753  
[kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org)**

#### Purpose:

to help us, as the Presbytery of Geneva,

- build relationships
- discern our vision for the future
- determine the mission priorities that will help us live into that future

Geneva Presbyterian Women will provide lunch and refreshments.

A \$6.00 donation per person is suggested for lunch. It will be collected that day.

Child care will be available; please let Karen Jensen know when you register.

## **PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN - SPRING GATHERING**

### **FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ULYSSES SATURDAY, MAY 2, 2015!**

On Saturday, May 2, women from Geneva Presbytery and their ecumenical friends are invited to attend the Spring Gathering hosted by First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses, 69 East Main St, Trumansburg. The day begins with registration from 9- 9:30 a.m. and the program will conclude by 2 p.m. The suggested donation for the day's activities, including a deliciously prepared lunch, is \$5.00. Mark your calendars now and plan on bringing a friend!

Rev. Cheryl Peebles of Trumansburg will lead worship. Our program theme will be "Community Gardens—Food Production." Our speaker, Mark DeCracker of Lyons, an avid photographer and founder/board member of Trail Works, Inc.

The mission of Trail Works is to develop and/or designate nature trails without barriers that everyone can enjoy, regardless of mobility. With Mark's efforts and the support of the Lyons community, Trails Works, Inc. has built the Trail of Hope ([www.trailofhope.org](http://www.trailofhope.org)) which is an accessible trail with themed gardens adjacent to the Lyons Community Center. In partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension's "Creating Healthy Places," school children have helped to plant beautiful flower and vegetable gardens along the trail.

During our "share" time after lunch, we will learn what other communities around the Presbytery are doing with their community gardens, as well as outreach food programs. Your Presbytery Coordinating Team and our hostesses at Trumansburg First Ulysses hope you will join us for this day of fellowship, learning and inspiration.

Don't forget:

- Bring your CWS school and hygiene kits for collection!
- Bring your church's Birthday Offering for dedication!
- Bring news of community gardens in your area for our sharing time!
- Bring a friend!

### **Camp Whitman**

Registrations are coming in for this summer's **camp experiences** at Camp Whitman. To find out about the many different camps check out the website at [campwhitman.org](http://campwhitman.org).

Lea Kone, our new camp director, reported to General Council on Tuesday that the Kitchen and Maintenance staff for this season is fully hired, camp counselors lifeguards are about half-way there, and, most importantly, she is still looking for a **camp nurse**. If you know anyone who would be interested in being camp nurse, either for the whole season or part of the season, please email Lea at [CampDir@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:CampDir@presbyteryofgeneva.org).

Also, put on your calendar the **open house and chicken barbeque** at Camp Whitman on Saturday, June 6, from noon to 4 PM.

## The Draft of Temporary Standing Rules

As reported last month the Synod Administrative Review Committee (SARC) shared with the members of General Council a draft of a document called Temporary Standing Rules. At this month's General Council meeting the members spent considerable time going over the draft and making changes where appropriate. Some of the changes involved the makeup of General Council: for example, we added a Vice-Chair of Council and decided to keep the immediate past chairperson on Council. We clarified language about CREs who are serving churches being members of Presbytery. We also added a Property Committee to the standing rules that would be responsible for the property directly owned by the presbytery.

Right now our copies of the paper are scratched up with bunches of notes in the margins, but they should get cleaned up quickly. The intention is still to make the amended draft available on the website and to present it to Presbytery for a first reading at the May meeting.

## Where We Are/Where Are We?

Is it a statement or a question? That depends on how you define "we." Presbytery can be described as a "some thing" (singular), but it is made up of many churches and ministers (plural). In trying to help the presbytery (singular) move forward, we have to pay attention to the many individuals (plural) who are involved. As a singular, the presbytery is trying to discern what it is to be and where it is to go in the future. The retreat is a big part of that discernment. But we (the plural) may be all over the place. Some may still be feeling resentment and hurt from our recent past, some may be eager to move forward, some may be suspicious, some may simply not care.

The individuals who make up General Council do not define the presbytery, but we do talk to each other a lot and are involved in the nitty-gritty of presbytery work. So we tend to think in terms of the singular. But we cannot assume that everybody is right there with us or thinking the same way we are thinking. How can we be responsive to both the singular and the plural? There are three primary ways we try to do that.

- **Continue to listen to others.** Members of Council want to be accessible and ready to listen to everyone. You can call any of us or email us or make arrangements to talk face-to-face. You can get stuff off your chest or make suggestions or just deepen a relationship with a council member. With your permission your suggestions will be shared at Council meetings.
- **Be as open and transparent as possible.** Minutes of Presbytery, of General Council, and of Committee on Ministry are on the website as quickly as possible. I recently heard a suggestion that we broadcast an email announcing when significant items get posted on the website. If there are other ways
- **Be inclusive in decision-making and working.** One critique of the recent past was that power got more and more concentrated in the hands of a few people. Council is trying to break that pattern. As we reviewed the temporary standing rules, we talked about forming another committee. We laughed about, "oh, no, not another committee," while affirming the need to distribute decision-making responsibility.

**Prayers**

Please keep in your prayers the upcoming retreat. Pray that the Spirit will show us the work God calls us to do.

Rev. Steve Dygert leaves the Almond Union of Churches to become pastor of the Waverly Baptist Church. Pray for Steve in his new work and for the Almond Church.

North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, receives a transitional pastor, Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond. The United Presbyterian Church, Hornell, receives a new pastor, Rev. Katherine Griffis. Pray for these new ministries.