

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
Minutes of the November 17, 2011 Stated Meeting
Held at the United Church, Canandaigua New York

A **quorum** being present, the meeting was called to order at 9:33AM by the moderator the Rev. Christy Wareham, who opened the meeting with prayer.

Minister Members Present (32): David Ashby, Bryon Bond, Betsy Crimmins, Joelle Davis, Ellen Donnan, Janice Fitzgerald, James Gerling, Gail Heimberger, Tim Johnson, Beverly Karr-Lyon, Glenn Kennedy, Jim Kerr, David Kilgore, Jon Knight, Fred Magley, Paul Malles, Chris Mathewson, Thomas Montgomery, Banu Moore, James Moore, Leah Ntuala, Cheryl Peeples, Bob Rochelle, Marjory Roth, Blake Severson, AJ Tierson, David VanWagnen, Christy Wareham, Sarah West, Jane Winters, James Yao, Nancy Meehan Yao

Minister Members Absent(A) or Excused(E) (43): Kirk Baker(A), Josh Baker(A), David Barnard(A), Dean Bemhower(E), Nancy Torpey Bidlesbacher(E), Zane Bolinger(E), Anne Campbell(A), Fred Coffman(E), Gray Chorpenning(A), Gilmore Creelman(E), Peter Crego(E), Sam Edwards(E), Jeff Falter(E), Nancy Farrell(E), Scott Flaherty(E), John Gould(A), Todd Haines(A), Richard Hart(E), David Hostetter(E), Susan Husted(E), Steven Jewell(A), Jeff Kellam(E), Donald Lester(E), Doug Madden(A), Peter Marr(A), John McLaren(E), Edward Meiser(E), James Newman(E), Lucinda O'Leary(A), Susan Otterbacher(E), Hugh Otterson(E), Richard Price(A), Ross Raymond(E), Russ Roth(A), Marlin Stewart(E), Joe Tafliaferre(E), Herb Tennes(E), James Tyrrell(E), John Valk(E), Anne Waasdorp(E), Diane Walker(E), Karl Warrington(A), Dan Zhao(E)

Lay Pastors Present (4): Pricilla Andrews, Steve Beals, Joy Novack Richard Schied

Elders Commissioners Present (27): Kathleen Swan(Bath), Ronald Rice(Bellona), Tom Rogers(Canandaigua), Graham Wightman(Corning), Dee Anderson(Dundee), William Randolph(Fairville) Marilyn Nellis(Geneva), Edwin Frick(Geneva), John Wildeman (Hammondsport), Irene Schu(Hornell), Lois Wafler(Huron), Cherie Bailey (Lodi), Georgia Stevens(Ontario Center), Philip Opdycke(Palmyra), Sue Goodrich(Penn Yan), Rosanna Bates(Pulteney), Commie Hilkert(Romulus), Jannette Monterville(Seneca Falls), Linda Kataskas(Shortsville), Tom Bailey(Spencer), Kate Merriman(Trumansburg), Allen Woodward Jr.(Waterloo), Carol Merrell(Wolcott), Robert Bell(Vice Moderator), John Domm(General Council), Virginia Champlin(General Council)

Certified Christian Educators (0):

Guests Present (5): Helen Carson(No church listed), Mary Faulk(Naples), Harriette Potter(Pulteney), Helen Wadsworth(Waterloo), Barb Scudder(Bath)

It was **moved and carried** to seat and enroll the Rev. Dr. Carson O'Hara Mouser (Genesee Valley Presbytery), as a **corresponding member**.

It was **moved and carried** to approve the docket as presented.

It was **moved and carried to approve the following action items** on the consent agenda:

The Clerk **moved** that the minutes of the September 28, 2011 Meeting of Presbytery be approved. (Copies can be found in the church mailbox)

The Clerk **moved** that between the close of this meeting and the March 2012 meeting of Presbytery, the Committee on Ministry and the General Council be granted permission to act on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva in approving timely motions, and that all said actions will be reported to the Presbytery at the March 2012 stated meeting.

The Clerk **moved** the adoption of the Polity Report (see Addendum A).

The Committee on Ministry **moved to recommend** to Presbytery that it approve the ½ time Stated Supply Agreement between the Rev. Thomas Montgomery and the First Presbyterian Church of Shortsville, effective January 1 through December 31, 2012, at the following terms: Salary \$5,000, Housing Allowance \$10,267, Pension and Medical \$7,342.36, Pension Retirement Savings Plan \$7,500, Travel reimbursed at the current IRS rate, Book Allowance \$50, Vacation one month including 4 Sundays, Study Leave \$500 and two weeks including 2 Sundays.

The Committee on Ministry **moved to recommend** to Presbytery that it approve the 12 month Interim Pastor Agreement between the Rev. Dr. Carson O'Hara Mouser and the First Presbyterian Church of Ontario Center, at the following terms: Salary \$19,995., Housing Allowance \$30,000., Full Pension \$16,109., Travel and Business Expenses paid by voucher and at the current IRS rate, Vacation four weeks including 4 Sundays, Study Leave \$2,000 and two weeks including 2 Sundays, Book Allowance \$500.

The Committee on Ministry **moved to recommend** to Presbytery that it appoint the Rev. Banu Moore as moderator of the Bath Presbyterian Church.

The Committee **moved to recommend** to Presbytery that the Rev. Jane Winters be appointed as the Moderator of the Hammondsport Presbyterian Church.

Greetings were given the by the host Pastor, the Rev. James Kerr, who welcomed the Presbytery to the United Church of Canandaigua.

The Presbytery moved into a **Time of Worship**.

It was **moved and carried** to adopt a **Resolution of Thanks** to the United Church for their hosting of this meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva.

The Report of the Stated Clerk was given by the Rev. Thomas Montgomery, Stated Clerk. The Clerk **reported** that a resource for Sessions as they seek to implement the changes in the Form of Government has been attached (See Addendum B)

The Clerk **reported** that the Rev. Richard Hart died on October 8, 2011. The Clerk **reports** that the Rev. Blake Severson has been enrolled as an active member of the Presbytery of Geneva. The Clerk **reported** that, as the General Council has suggested as an option to churches, the following is from a letter sent to the Presbytery, via the Stated Clerk, from the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads, dated October 2, 2011, and it is hereby recorded in the minutes:

Dear Friends in Christ,

On behalf of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church in Horseheads, I am writing to make you aware that a number of session members as well as some members of the congregation strongly disagree with the change in the book of order section G6.0106b. Specifically, the removal of the phrase “marriage between a man and a woman or chastity in singleness.”

This change has spurred concerns that the session would like voiced to Presbytery. The following are several concerns that were presented to session at the last meeting on September 18th.

- 1 The session has received a letter from a member requesting removal from membership.
- 2 A letter was received by another member requesting that “this session take a stand and tell the Presbytery that it is wrong to change the Bible for their political cause”.
- 3 A couple who came to church on a regular basis has decided not to attend.
- 4 Two perspective members have decided not to join.
- 5 A couple has asked that if they donate money, can they designate that their donation does not go to Presbytery.

Although a number of members of session do not agree with this change in the book of order, all members agreed that it is important for you to know that these are some objections to the change in the ordination requirements and the issues that may arise from this change.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Yoder
Clerk of Session

The Report of the Executive Presbyter was given by the Rev. Dr. Joelle Davis. Rev. Davis spoke of the word “luminosity”, defined as a space between two “places”, one place being what has been and the other space being a preparing for what shall be; and the Rev. Dr. Davis noted how she feels it applies to the life of Presbytery and of our denomination. Rev. Dr. Davis noted that the season of Advent is such a time. Rev. Dr. Davis also shared congratulations

to churches who are celebrating anniversaries, and for the anniversaries in five year increments of years of ordination for clergy. The Rev. Dr. Davis offered a prayer of thanksgiving for all their ministries.

The Report of the Committee on Ministry was given by the co-chair, the Rev. Gail Heimberger. The Committee on Ministry **reported** it has voted to place the Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummel on the Approved Pulpit Supply list. The Committee **reported** that the Rev. James Moore and the Rev. Banu Moore have been placed on Administrative Leave, effective November 1, 2011, from the Hammondsport Presbyterian Church, and that Hammondsport will continue to pay the Rev. Banu and Rev. James Moore at the current financial compensation level. The Committee **moved and carried** that the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Doug Madden and the Bath Presbyterian Church be dissolved, effective November 20, 2011. Words of Farewell to the Rev. Doug Madden were shared by Ruling Elder Barb Scudder and Ruling Elder Kathleen Swan. The Committee **moved and carried** that the following be named to the Administrative Commission to Installation the Rev. Blake Severson as pastor of the Lyons Presbyterian Church, to be held on November 19th at 3:00 PM: Ruling Elder Ted Liberator (Lyons), Ruling Elder Bob Andrews (Dundee), Rev. Christy Wareham (Moderator), Rev. Gail Heimberger, and Rev. Marjory Roth. The Rev. Heimberger **moved and carried** that the Presbytery adopt a 0% increase for the 2012 minimum salary (see attached schedule). The Rev. Heimberger **moved and carried** that, if the way be clear, the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Chris Mathewson and the Corning Presbyterian Church be dissolved effective January 1, 2012. The Rev. David Ashby shared words of Farewell on behalf of the Presbytery, and the Rev. Mathewson shared remarks. The Rev. Dr. Joelle Davis share remarks of appreciation on behalf of the Presbytery to the Rev. Thomas Montgomery, who has resigned as Stated Clerk, effective December 31, 2011. The Presbytery welcomed the Rev. Dr. Carson O'Hara Mouser, Interim Pastor of the Ontario Center Presbyterian Church, who was introduced by Ruling Elder Georgia Steven (Ontario Center). The Rev. Dr. Mouser shared brief remarks.

It was **moved and carried** to extend the docket 5 minutes past the order of the day.

The Report of the General Council was given by the Rev. Betsy Crimmins, Chair, who invited the Rev. Jon Knight, chair of the Subcommittee on Presbytery Personnel, who spoke to the action taken by the General Council as follows: For 2012 the Stated Clerk position will be combined with the Executive Presbyter position, and the Rev. Dr. Joelle Davis serve in this role on a trial basis for the year, and that this will be evaluated at the end of the year. Some pieces of the administrative duties of the Stated Clerk will be picked up by Ms. Karen Jensen in the office, and Ms. Rhonda Everdyke will pick up some other pieces of the Stated Clerk's position. The personnel committee will, on a tri-monthly basis, meet with Joelle, Rhonda, and Karen to evaluate how the change is working. The Rev. Crimmins **reported** that the Presbytery of Geneva has received a bequest of \$106,280.28 from the estate of Ms. Caroline Lauer, and that General Council will discuss later recommendations on how to use the funds. The Rev. Crimmins placed in nomination the name of Ruling Elder John Domm as the Chair of the Nominating Committee for 2012. There being no nominations from the floor, it was **moved and carried** to close nominations and to have the Stated Clerk cast one unanimous ballot.

The Report of the Committee and Budget and Finance was given by the Rev. James Yao, chair, who spoke to the Proposed 2012 Presbytery of Geneva Budget. The Rev. Yao **reported** on the changes in the Budget in the Mission Giving line items, highlighting that 90% of the pledged Mission Giving receipts will go to the Presbytery, that 1% of the pledged receipts will go to the Synod of the Northeast, and that the remaining 9 % of the pledged mission receipts will go to the General Assembly. Rev. Yao **reported** that the 2012 per capita will stay at the current rate of \$43. It was **moved and carried** to adopt the 2012 Presbytery of Geneva Budget (see attached)

The Report of the Nominating Committee was given by Ruling Elder John Domm, chair, who placed in nomination the following names:

Chairperson of Council: Rev. Bryan Bond (Class of 2013)
Vice Chairperson of Council: Ruling Elder Barb Scudder, Bath (Class of 2013)
PW Representative for Class of 2012: Ruling Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)

Moderator of Presbytery: Ruling Elder Bob Bell (Elmira, First)
Vice Moderator of Presbytery: Ruling Elder Donna Colvin (Pulteney)

Chairperson for the Committee on Budget and Finance: Rev. Jim Yao (2013)
Class of 2015: Rev. Cheryl Peeples
Ruling Elder Carol Flook (Corning)
Ruling Elder Bob Andrews (Dundee)

Chairperson for the Subcommittee on Presbytery Personnel: Rev. Jon Knight (2013)
Class of 2015: Rev. Ellen Donnan
Ruling Elder Linda Kataskas (Shortsville)

Co-Chairpersons for the Committee on Ministry: Rev. Gail Heimberger (2014) and Ruling Elder Tom Bailey (2014) (Spencer)
Class of 2014: Rev. Paul Malles
Ruling Elder Rosanna Bates (Pulteney)
Class of 2015: Rev. Dave VanWagnen
Rev. Marjory Roth
Ruling Elder Jim Varner (Hornell)

Chairperson for the Committee on Preparation for Ministry: Rev. Nancy Yao (2013)
Class of 2015: Rev. Russ Roth
Ruling Elder Priscilla Andrews (Dundee)

Permanent Judicial Commission:
Class of 2014: Rev. Leah Ntuala
Class of 2018: Rev. Rick Price

Ruling Elder Kate Merriman (Trumansburg)

Reserve PJC Members:

Class of 2018: Ruling Elder Carol Heald (Lyons)

Readers of the Standard Ordination Exams for 2012:

Rev. Betsey Crimmins

Rev. Jim Kerr -Alternate

Synod Commissioners:

Class of 2014: Rev. Bob Rochelle

Ruling Elder Dick Schied (Hammondsport)

General Assembly Commissioners:

Rev. Bev Karr-Lyon

Ruling Elder Graham Wightman (Corning)

Ruling Elder Steve Joint (Bath) – YAAD

Alternates: Rev. Ellen Donnan

Ruling Elder Scott Miller (Hornell)

Dan Martens(Penn Yan) YAAD

There being no further nominations from the floor, it was **moved and carried** to close nominations and for the Stated Clerk to cast one unanimous ballot.

The Presbytery moved into the **World Café Discussion and Reflection** of specific questions. Mr. Don Proffit, from the World Café, was introduced and he led the Presbytery through the process.

There being no further business, it was agreed by consensus to adjourn at 12:50 PM, and the meeting closed with silent prayer. A light lunch was served by members of the United Church.

Respectfully Submitted by:

Rev. Thomas D. Montgomery, Stated Clerk