

**Called Meeting ~ Presbytery of Geneva
Tuesday June 24, 2014
First Presbyterian Church, Penn Yan, NY**

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Geneva held a Called Meeting on Tuesday June 24, 2014 at the First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan, New York.

CONVENING

Moderator the Rev. Cheryl Peeples called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., a quorum being present. The Moderator offered the opening prayer.

ROLL

Teaching elders (37):

David Ashby	Cynthia Huling Hummel	Lucinda O'Leary
Kirk Baker	Susan Husted	Cheryl Peeples
Joanne Bartel (HR)	Timothy Johnson	Lee Prong
Betsey Crimmins	Beverly Karr-Lyon	Marjory Roth
Joelle Davis	Glenn Kennedy	Russ Roth
Harold Delhagen	James Kerr	A. J. Tierson
Ellen Donnan	David Kilgore	David Vanwangen
Russell Duncan	Jonathan Knight	Diane Walker
Jeff Falter	Amy Loving	Kathleen Waters
Nancy J. Farrell	Paul Malles	Jane Winters
Janice Fitzgerald	Thomas Montgomery	Nancy Meehan Yao
Deb Grohman	James Moore	
Gail Heimberger	Leah Ntuala	

Teaching Elders Excused:

James Yao (Palmyra)

Elder Commissioners from Congregations (32):

Arkport – Beth Haines	Huron – Lois Wafler
Bath – Barbara Scudder	Lyons – Les Bartley
Bellona – Jane Hansen	Naples – Joann Braun
Cohocton – Linda Hodges	Newark – Paul Salisbury
Dundee – <i>Excused</i>	Ontario Center – John Domm
East Palmyra – Sylvia Harding	Ovid – Roberta S. Morris
Elmira, First – Barbara Squires	Palmyra – Philip R. Opdycke
Elmira, North – Jeff Richards	Penn Yan – Sue Goodrich
Fairville – William Randolph	Phelps – Nan Clark
Geneva – Ellen Reynolds, Bill Fox	Pulteney – Harriette O. Potter
Hammondsport – James Walling	Romulus – Connie Hilkert
Hornell – Irene Schu	Seneca #9 – Pamela Ells
Horseheads – James Zearfoss	Shortsville – Linda C. Katadaskas

Sodus – James Hopkins
Spencer – C. Thomas Bailey
Trumansburg – Virginia Miller
Waterloo – Joyce Yost

Watkins Glen – Karen Rhodes
Weston – Geri Petris
Wolcott – Carol Merrell

Commissioned Ruling Elders (4):

Priscilla Andrews
Steve Beals
Joy Novack
Richard Schied

Additional Ruling Elder Commissioners (3):

Kris Alling (General Assembly Commissioner)
Micah Beck (General Council)
Benjamin Falter (General Council)

Corresponding Members (voice, no vote):

The Rev. Val Fowler, Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Guests:

Hal Graham – Cohocton
Judy Graham - Cohocton
Robin Kerr-Wilson - Arkport
Cheryl A. Green - Hornell
Don Braun - Naples
Rosanna Bates - Pulteney
Bill Turner – Penn Yan
Joe Davis – Rochester

Carol Davis – Rochester
Charles Yost – Waterloo
Vera Dykes – Weston
Judith Wilbert – Penn Yan
Phoebe Baker – Penn Yan
Rebecca Cowan – Elmira, First
Karlee Roberts - Bellona

Total Voting members present:

Teaching elders	37
Ruling elder commissioners	32
Lay Pastors	3
Voting Elder Commissioners	4
Total	76

Registered Guests	15
Corresponding Members	1

PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

The Moderator reviewed the purpose of the meeting:

1. To act on a motion to rescind the decision of the presbytery, at its May 2 called meeting, to refer to General Council for a period of not less than three months, a dissolve the Executive Presbyter relationship between the Presbytery of Geneva and the Rev. Dr. Joelle S. Davis, effective six months from the date of this (May 2, 2014) meeting, rescinding her authority as Executive Presbyter effective immediately.

2. If Item 1 is passed, to act on a motion to dissolve the Executive Presbyter relationship between the Presbytery of Geneva and the Rev. Joelle S. Davis, effective six months from the date of this (June 24, 2014) meeting, with compensation and benefits to continue for that period of six months, rescinding her authority as Executive Presbytery and relieving her of any and all duties and responsibilities as Executive Presbyter, effective immediately, and to act on any modifications and additions to the termination and severance package as may be proposed by the personnel Committee.
3. To authorize the General Council and Personnel Committee to negotiate any additional issues and take such actions as are necessary to effectuate the termination and severance.
4. Any other matters pertinent to Items 1, 2, and 3.

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Appointments

The Moderator announced the appointment of the Rev. Val Fowler—a member of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley—as Stated Clerk Pro-Tem for this meeting.

The Moderator appointed the following persons as tellers for the meeting:

- Ruling Elder Micah Beck (Ithaca)
- Teaching Elder Jon Knight (Horseheads)
- Teaching Elder Bev Karr-Lyon (Elmira)
- Teaching Elder Jane Winters (Westminster, Elmira)

The timekeeper for the meeting will be Ruling Elder Jon Domme (Ontario Center).

The presbytery VOTED to enroll the following persons as Corresponding Members:

- The Rev. Val Fowler, Presbytery of Genesee Valley

The presbytery welcomed first-time elders from the following churches:

- Elmira First

The presbytery VOTED to grant privilege of voice to James Hart, esq., appearing on behalf of the Rev Joelle Davis.

The presbytery welcomed guests present for the meeting

The presbytery VOTED to approve the agenda for the meeting.

The Moderator read the rules of conduct for the meeting. The Moderator noted that every person eligible to speak will be allowed a maximum of 5 minutes to speak to issues before the presbytery.

WORSHIP

The Moderator led the presbytery in a time of worship.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE PRESBYTERY

Business Item #1:

The following motion was placed before the presbytery:

To **rescind** the decision of the presbytery, at its May 2, 2014 called meeting, to refer to General Council for a period of not less than three months, a dissolve the Executive Presbyter relationship between the Presbytery of Geneva and the Rev. Dr. Joelle S. Davis, effective six months from the date of this (May 2, 2014) meeting, rescinding her authority as Executive Presbyter effective immediately.

The Chair of the General Council was recognized to explain the rationale for offering this motion.

The presbytery VOTED to approve the motion by a counted standing vote of 54/5.

Business Item #2 (if item #1 is approved):

The following motion was placed before the presbytery:

To **dissolve** the Executive Presbyter relationship between the Presbytery of Geneva and the Rev. Joelle S. Davis, effective six months from the date of this (June 24, 2014) meeting, with compensation and benefits to continue for that period of six months, rescinding her authority as Executive Presbyter and relieving her of any and all duties and responsibilities as Executive Presbyter, effective immediately, and to act on any modifications and additions to the termination and severance package as may be proposed by the Personnel Committee.

Attorney James Hart explained that negotiations regarding severance are continuing relatively cordially, and that a resolution will be achieved soon.

The presbytery VOTED to approve the motion by a counted standing vote of 63/9.

Business Item #3:

The following motion was placed before the presbytery:

To **authorize** the General Council and Personnel Committee to negotiate any additional issues and take such actions as are necessary to effectuate the termination and severance.

The presbytery VOTED to approve the motion by a standing counted vote of: 75/0.

Other Items Pertinent to Items 1, 2, & 3:

The presbytery VOTED to approve a resolution of thanks to God and Joelle Davis for the ways in which Joelle's ministry has enriched our presbytery and prayer that the grace and peace of Christ might bring healing to the areas in which we have experienced or continue to experience conflict.

The standing counted vote was 73/0.

CLOSING

The presbytery VOTED to adjourn the meeting. The Moderator offered the closing prayer.

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk Pro-Tem