

## Written Reports for the Presbytery of Geneva Stated Meeting June 7, 2014

### 5.01 Report of the Committee on Budget and Finance – the Rev. Jim Yao, Chair

### 5.03 Report of the Committee on Nominations – the Rev. Leah Ntuala, Chair

The Committee on Nominations places the following names into nomination:

- Ericka Walsh from Seneca Falls in the Class of 2015 for Synod YAD
  - Bob Sells, Ordination Reader
  - Gail Heimberger, 2014 Vice Chairperson, General Council
  - George Poormon (Waterloo) and \_\_\_\_\_ - Camp Whitman Board
  - Missions Grant Funding Team - Char Gillespie (Penn Yan), Marilyn Benedict (Ontario Center), Steve Jewell (Arkport) and Jane Winters (Westminster, Elmira).
  - \_\_\_\_\_ Budget and Finance, Class of 2014
  - \_\_\_\_\_ COM, Class of 2015
- (Blanks were awaiting response of nominee at the time of publication and will be brought to meeting)

**This will need a vote of the Presbytery.**

The Nominating Committee seeks your suggestions for presbytery committee positions. All suggestions will be gratefully received and reviewed by the Nominating Committee. You may even suggest yourself for a position. Special consideration will be given for persons in churches with members not currently serving on committees, and for persons which may increase Presbytery's diversity.

### 6.01 The Report of the Committee on Ministry – the Rev. Amy Loving,

Ruling Elder Diana Becker, Co-chairs

- The Committee on Ministry reports the following actions that have been taken by the committee for information:
  - It was moved and carried if the way be clear and AC concurs to approve a 3 month extension of a contract with Kirk Baker. [The AC *did* concur.]
  - It was moved and carried to approve Tom Montgomery's retirement as of September 1, 2014.
- The committee moves approval of the call of the Rev. Dr. Deborah Lind-Schmitz to The Presbyterian Church in Geneva, if the way be clear. [The congregation is meeting on June 1, 2014. **Because the Rev. Dr. Lind-Schmitz is currently serving as the transitional pastor of this congregation, this call must be approved by at least  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the Presbytery of Geneva.** Commissioners from the Presbyterian Church in Geneva will present the details of this call to the Presbytery at the meeting prior to the vote.]
- The committee encourages *all* Teaching Elders (and any other participants in the Board of Pensions Medical Benefits Program) to answer the Call to Health. "The Call to Health member health initiative is designed to help improve overall member health by encouraging you to make the most of your preventive care benefits and by identifying and managing chronic conditions. As a member, you can lower your individual and family deductibles for 2015 by answering the Call to Health. When you participate in Call to Health by completing specific health actions from October 1, 2013, through

September 30, 2014, you will have your individual and family deductibles for 2015 reduced to 1.0 percent of effective salary (as determined by salary range and subject to the medical participation minimum and maximum). For members who do not participate, 2015 deductibles will be 1.5 percent of effective salary.” For more information about the Call to Health, please visit

<http://www.pensions.org/AvailableResources/BookletsandPublications/Documents/MED-625.pdf>

- Presentations and information from recent Board of Pensions Regional Consultation are available online:

<http://www.pensions.org/MembersAndEmployers/MidCouncils/Pages/Regional-Benefits-Consultations.aspx>

## **6.02 Report of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry – the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao, Chair**

The CPM moves that Connie Franks, Ruling Elder from the United Church of Marion, come under care as an Inquirer for Commissioned Ruling Elder.

**This will need a vote of the Presbytery**

## **8.02 Report of Fusion on Fire New Worshipping Community**

### **Fusion on Fire**

May 2014 – Six month report

*(This is the 6 month report required by PCUSA 1001 New Worshipping communities which is being shared with the Presbytery – Priscilla Andrews, Interim CRE, Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY)*

Fusion on Fire (1001 New Worshipping Community - #1360) has worshiped in Lake Street Presbyterian Church every Saturday evening since the beginning of Advent 2013.

The attendance averages 85-100 regular worshipers of all ages, socioeconomic groups, races and religious backgrounds. The high attendance was 185 on opening night and the low was 57 on a snowy winter evening in Upstate NY. We praise God that people in inner city Elmira are seeking God through this praise worship service.

### **Highlights** of the first six months:

Saturday night, May 17, the two worshipping communities (traditional and praise) joined in a potluck dinner (72 attended) followed by a concert (137 attended) with a Christian rock band, dance ministry team, Christian rapper and closing with a college student from the traditional choir singing “Amazing Grace.” You could feel the building of a joint community of faith.

Christmas Eve, the two worshipping communities joined to celebrate the birth of Christ in a candlelight service. After singing “Silent Night” with candles lit in the darkened sanctuary, we walked two blocks and sang “Joy to the World” to the inmates in the local jail. We had city police assistance crossing highways and local TV coverage.

On Maundy Thursday, the two worshipping communities shared the Lord's Supper together after an enactment of Jesus sharing the bread and cup with his disciples.

Screen and power point equipment was purchased so announcements, music, scripture and sermon highlights can be projected for worshipers viewing.

Church van transportation is provided for those who live farther away from the church.

The Wednesday night Bible study has out grown two spaces and now meets in the church parlor with attendance of 25. Interesting questions have been discussed as they study the book of Romans.

Two young African American adults (one male and one female) assist in worship and each has preached at least once. Juhura Shazer, the Outreach preacher, is mentoring them in their spiritual walk. Two teenagers assist with the audio visual aspects of the service.

A number of the "traditionalists" worship on Saturday nights at the Fusion on Fire service and a number Fusion on Fire (FoF) worshipers attend the Sunday morning service to share communion.

Shazer participated in the Synod of the NE gathering

A number of people walking by on Saturday night see the lights on or hear the music so they stop in to see what is happening. They have found a new relationship with Christ.

There have been wrinkles between the two worshipping communities but no major problems have developed. Both groups seem to respect each others' difference.

The services are enriched by the dance ministry team. The two teams are groups of 8-12 children and young people who visually interpret Christian music through dance.

### **Future plans:**

Apply for an Investment Grant with PCUSA 1001 New Worshipping Communities by July 1, 2014.

Investigate ways the two worshipping communities can be more integrated.

Purchase video camera so the services can be streamed through local TV channels.

Hold new membership classes and explain Reformed theology to the new Lakestreeters.

Grace & peace,  
Priscilla Andrews  
Interim CRE  
Lake Street Presbyterian Church  
Elmira, NY