

**The Presbytery of Geneva
Reports to the Stated Meeting of the Presbytery
on May 26, 2009
at the Western Presbyterian Church
101 East Main Street, Palmyra, NY**

1.00 The Report of the Stated Clerk

*1.01 The Clerk **moves** that the minutes of the March 24, 2009 be approved.
(A copy can be found in the church mailbox)

1.02 The Clerk **reports** that the Presbytery Minutes have been reviewed, and that the minutes have been approved without exception, and with the following commendations: Exceptionally well organized, Includes commissioning celebrations for Commissioned Lay Pastors and Installations.

1.03 The Clerk **reports** that all communications have been forwarded to the appropriate committees.

1.04 The Clerk **reports** that the next meeting of Presbytery will be held September 29, 2009 at the Presbyterian Church of Bellona.

2.00 The Report of Regional Representative of the Board of Pensions and the Board of Pensions Liaison

2.01 The Rev. Phil Gehman will present a **report** on the Pension Plan.

2.02 Elder Tom Bailey will share a **report** on the Board of Pensions Eastern Regional Consultation.

3.00 Report of Chinese Koinonia Administrative Commission

9.01 The Rev. Glenn Kennedy, chair, will **report** on the current work and ministry of the Chinese Koinonia Administrative Commission.

4.00 The Presbytery at Worship and Session Four of Presbytery's Study of the Belhar Confession

4.01 The Presbytery will be led through a study of the Belhar Confession and experience worship centered around the confession.

5.00 The Report of the Executive Presbyter

5.01 The Rev. Joelle Davis, Executive Presbyter, will share her reflections on the life and ministry of the Presbytery

6.00 The Report of the Committee on Ministry

*6.01 The Committee on Ministry **moves to recommend** that the Presbytery approve a Temporary Pastor Agreement for temporary pastoral service between Rev. Jane Winters and the Elmira Westminster Church with the following terms: Worship: \$100 per service; Contract pastoral services: \$20.00 per hour; Meetings: \$20.00 per hour. Travel mileage reimbursed at current IRS rate.

*6.02 The Committee on Ministry **moves to recommend** that the Presbytery approve the following to the Pulpit Supply List: Rev. David Martin, Rev. Horace Stoddard (American Baptist), and Rev. Roy Hansen (United Methodist).

6.03 The Committee on Ministry **reports** that it has voted to endorse the grant application for the Rev. Karl Warrington for a Seminary Debt Reduction Grant.

6.04 The Committee on Ministry **reports** that it has voted to appoint the Rev. Doug Madden as the peer colleague for the Rev. James Moore and that the Rev. Jane Winters be appointed as the peer colleague for the Rev. Banu Moore.

6.05 The Committee on Ministry **reports** that the First Ulysses Presbyterian Church of Trumansburg, at a properly called Congregational Meeting held on April 26, 2009, moderated by the Rev. Jim Gerling, has voted to extend a call to the Rev. Cheryl Peeples effective June 8th, 2009.

6.06 The Committee on Ministry **moves to recommend** to Presbytery, that with all AAEEEO requirements being met and with representatives of the church attesting to the call, that the Presbytery of Geneva approve the call as an installed pastor between the Rev. Cheryl Peeples and the First Ulysses Presbyterian Church of Trumansburg, effective June 8, 2009 at the following terms: Salary \$34,500, Housing Allowance \$12,000, Travel reimbursed at the current IRS rate (\$1,800), Study Leave \$2,000 and two weeks including two Sundays, Vacation four weeks including a maximum of four Sundays, Moving costs of up to \$5,000 (negotiable).

*6.07 The Committee on Ministry **moves to recommend** that the Presbytery appoint the Rev. Jim Kerr as moderator of the Shortsville Presbyterian Church.

*6.08 The Committee on Ministry reports that representatives of the Committee on Ministry have met with the Rev. Susan Husted, and that she has decided to ask to be granted the status of Honorable Retired. The Committee on Ministry **moves to recommend** to Presbytery that Rev. Susan Husted be granted the status of Honorable Retired, effective upon her 62nd birthday.

*6.09 The Committee on Ministry **moves to recommend** to Presbytery that the following ministers be named moderators of churches without pastors or stated supply pastors and that the sessions be authorized to supply their own pulpit from the Presbytery approved pulpit supply list in consultation with the Committee on Ministry:

Addison- Rev. Jonathan Knight
Burdett- Rev. Beverly Karr-Lyon
Cohocton – Rev. Stephen Jewell
East Palmyra – Rev. Tim Johnson
Elmira Westminster–Rev. Jane Winters
Fairville-Rev. Tim Johnson
Hedgesville – Rev. Doug Madden
Howard – Rev. David Kilgore
Prattsburgh – Rev. Herb Tennies
Red Creek– Rev. Gail Heimberger
Romulus – Rev. Peter Crego
Shortsville – Rev. James Kerr
Waterloo- Rev. Nancy Birdsong
West Fayette – Rev. Peter Crego
Weston – Rev. Doug Madden

6.10 The Committee on Ministry **reports** that the Rev. Christy Wareham has conducted the Triennial Visit on April 26 at the Bellona and Seneca #9 Churches.

6.11 The Committee on Ministry **reports** that the Rev. Jim Martin (Susquehanna Valley Presbytery) has been granted permission to labor within our bounds so that he may lead worship on Easter Sunday at the Elmira Westminster Presbyterian Church.

6.12 The Committee on Ministry **reports** that the Seneca Falls Presbyterian Church Pastor Nominating Committee has been trained.

6.13 The Committee on Ministry **reports** that the Rev. Jim Kerr has attended the CREDO conference help for ministers between the ages of 44 and 55. The Rev. Jim Kerr shares a presentation.

6.14 The Committee on Ministry invites the presbytery to join in celebrating the ministry of the Rev. Anne Waasdorp in honoring her retirement. (See Addendum A)

7.00 Report of the Committee on Church in the World

7.01 The Committee on the Church in the World will **report** on the work trips to West Virginia in April, and on the trip to Mexico.

8.00 The Report of General Council

8.01 General Council chair, the Rev. David Ashby will **report** on the recent work and future directions of the General Council.

8.10 The Report of the Committee on Personnel

8.11 The Committee on Personnel nominates the Rev. Thomas Montgomery as Stated Clerk, and **moves** that the Rev. Montgomery be elected to a three year term as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Geneva.

8.20 The Report on Camp Whitman

8.21 The General Council **reports** on the proposed Camp Whitman Board (see Addendum B). The General Council **moves** that the Presbytery of Geneva support the development of a Board of Directors for Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake.

8.22 Elder Idelle Dillon, Camp Director, will share a **report** on the upcoming 2009 Camp Season.

8.30 The Report of Committee on Budget and Finance

8.31 The Committee on Budget and Finances will **report** on the current finances of the Presbytery of Geneva.

9.00 The Report of the Presbyterian Woman

9.01 Elder Virginia Champlin will present on the ongoing work and projects of the Presbyterian Women.

10.00 The Report of the Committee on Congregational Transformation

10.01 The Committee on Congregational Transformation will share a **report** on the ongoing work of the committee.

Adjournment to Go Forth and Serve

Presbytery of Geneva
May 26th Meeting - Addendum A

SERVICE OF WORSHIP
AND
RECOGNITION OF HONORABLE RETIREMENT

CALL TO WORSHIP

There are different gifts,

but it is the same Spirit who gives them.

There are different ways of serving God,

but it is the same Lord who is served.

God works through different people in different ways,

but it is the same God whose purpose is achieved through them all.

PRAYER

By your will, O God, we go out into the world with good news of your undying love and minister among your children to show the wonders of your grace. We pray for all who minister for you. Replenish them with the truth of your doctrine, endue them with holiness of life and strengthen them with the knowledge of our care and fellowship. May they be brave, glad, and hopeful in your presence; through Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

DECLARATION

In the name of Jesus Christ, the great Head of the Church, we recognize the honorable retirement of Anne Waasdorp, in accordance with the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), and the action of this Presbytery.

Remembering that God alone is the judge of the stewardship of everyone's gifts and life, we, the members of the Presbytery of Geneva, express our appreciation for your faithful service and acknowledge the privilege we enjoyed in serving with you.

Beloved in Christ, inasmuch as God's goodness has brought you to years of Christian maturity in the gospel ministry, the Presbytery of Geneva, in granting your request of retirement, desires to make public acknowledgement of your service to the Kingdom of God.

REMARKS AND RESPONSE

LITANY OF RECOGNITION (The Presbytery shall stand and join in the responses).

O God, Creator of all things visible and invisible, and Lord of history, you have called us by the voice of the Church to serve Jesus Christ and have revealed to us this work for which we have been chosen.

Thanks be to God.

Holy Spirit, you have given us the scriptures of the Old and New Testaments to be a unique and authoritative witness to Jesus Christ, and we have accepted them to be God's Word for us.

Thanks be to God.

Master and Teacher, you have enlisted us in your service and instructed us by the Church and his confessions so that we might lead others, be a friend, love neighbors and work for reconciliation in the world.

Thanks be to God.

Lord of the Church, your servant, Anne, stands today among us after serving long and well in your Church. This life and ministry have revealed the risen Christ to many, provided many personal satisfactions, warmed individual hearts in close relationship, and brought self-worth and dignity through love shared.

Thanks be to God.

God, in whom we live and have our being, continue to your servant and loved ones a full measure of your grace. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

PRESENTATION OF CERTIFICATE OF RETIREMENT

PRAYER

Eternal God and Lord of us all, through the ages men and women have been called to witness to your love and to give evidence of your kindness to your people. We honor Anne, your servant today. Your Church has been enriched by her wisdom, her energy, her sensitivity, her love of your Word, and her obedience to your Spirit. Your power has been visible in her strengths and virtue. Her life has unveiled your splendor for your people to see you at work in the lives of your servants. For your manifestation in her life and ministry, we give you thanks, O Lord.

We are grateful that the years ahead for Anne will be less filled with pressure and tedium, and that she may enjoy a new measure of your peace. Help her to be a happy steward of her leisure. Bless her with good health. Teach her new uses of her time. Continue to use her for the constructive purposes of your Kingdom. Surround her with the continued comradeship of her friends and colleagues. As she has served you with joy and faithfulness, may she continue to know the happiness of your presence with her. May she cheerfully conform in all things to your blessed will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FAQ's on the Proposed Camp Whitman Board of Directors

1. How will a Board of Directors differ from the current committee structure?

The main difference will be in the type of work that the Board will undertake. The previous committee structure assumed that the committees were to be responsible for much of the day-to-day operation of the camp and the functioning of the eight-week summer program. Since many of those responsibilities are now done by paid staff members, the committee members were not being utilized to their greatest potential. Rather than issues of staff and program content and camp maintenance, the Board of Directors will be focused on the vision, mission, development, and promotion of Camp Whitman.

2. Won't changing to a Board of Directors mean that fewer people will be involved in the oversight of the camp and invested in the camp?

The two committees that have been in place allowed for approximately eighteen people from the Presbytery of Geneva and three people from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley to participate in any given year. The Board of Directors will have nine elected positions, four from the Presbytery of Geneva, four from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley and one from the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley. In addition, other non-director positions, such as committee chairs and committee members, will be involved from all of the presbyteries. The change in structure also allows for greater responsibility and increased communication within all of the presbyteries involved. People will be asked to become invested in the camp in new ways, beyond that of the current committee structure, as the vision and mission develop.

3. How does the proposed Board of Directors affect the ownership of the camp property?

The ownership of the property will remain with the Presbytery of Geneva, who originally purchased the property. The land itself is quite valuable, and we do not anticipate that another presbytery would be able to afford to buy any of the land itself.

4. Why would other presbyteries want to participate in a Board of Directors if they do not own the property?

Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake is a resource that the Presbytery of Geneva hopes to share with other presbyteries as they seek to fulfill their own mission and

purpose. Participation in the Board of Directors will allow other presbyteries to utilize the camp as a means of transformation (both personal as well as congregational), leadership development, spiritual development, diversity awareness, and environmental education/ eco-justice. By integrating this resource into the mission and ministry of each presbytery, we hope that more and more people will learn new skills and experience God in deeper and more meaningful ways. Participation in the Board of Directors by the other presbyteries is a means of furthering their own sense of where God is calling them and how this resource called Camp Whitman achieves God's purposes within their bounds.

5. How much will it cost a person to serve as a director or a presbytery to be part of the Board of Directors?

It will not cost people anything to become a director. Individuals will be nominated to serve on the Board of Directors based on a set of desired spiritual gifts and through a process determined by the individual presbyteries. Presbyteries will not be asked to contribute a specific dollar amount in order to participate in the Board of Directors. Rather, the Board of Directors will work with presbyteries to help interpret the use of the funds they currently give to this mission and will also develop alternative development funds for the camp.

6. Why is the Board of Directors not being incorporated from the outset?

At the moment, Camp Whitman is not a self-sustaining ministry. It is a mission of the Presbytery of Geneva and the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. The connection to those presbyteries is important to maintain as we continue to develop the sustainability of the camp. The oversight of both the personnel and property remain with the Presbytery of Geneva, and independent incorporation of the Board of Directors would necessitate a structure that is beyond the scope of what is possible at this point. Incorporation may be a consideration in the future.

7. Will the Board of Directors supervise the camp staff?

No. The staff will continue to be supervised by the Executive Presbyter of the Presbytery of Geneva, with accountability to the General Council of the Presbytery of Geneva's Subcommittee on Presbytery Personnel. Input from the Board of Directors will likely be sought during the annual review process for the staff.

8. Wasn't the old model working fine? Why would we want to change it?

The former committee structure served the camp well for many years. Many people have given countless volunteer hours to insuring that Camp Whitman is here for new generations of campers to enjoy. However, there is an increasing

need for a new direction in form and style of oversight and involvement from the presbyteries. With smaller numbers of children in our congregations, the focus of the camp's future must adapt to a new reality. This means both increased emphasis on the mission to campers with developmental disabilities, and the need for people who can serve as ambassadors beyond the local churches to recruit new campers. A Board of Directors represents a new age in communication and cooperation across presbytery lines. It will offer greater opportunity for all stakeholders to share in the future vision and continued discernment of where God is calling us to be.

May 2009