

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ELMIRA, NY
SATURDAY MAY 20, 2017**

*Together, we pray, play, and energize our congregations to live out the Good News of Jesus Christ.
Together, we lift up each other in love.
Together, we call others into the circle of God's grace.*

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Geneva held a duly-called Stated Meeting on Saturday May 20, 2017 at the North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, New York.

CONVENING

Elder Joann Braun, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., a quorum being present. The Moderator offered the opening prayer.

ROLL

ACTIVE MINISTERS SERVING CHURCHES (P = Present; Ex = Excused; A = Absent)

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Austin, Amy Loving – <i>Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca #9</i>	P	P	Ex		
Baker, Kirk – <i>Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)</i>	A	P	Ex		
Bhasker, Stanley – <i>Bath, Bath</i>	Ex	Ex	P		
Crimmins, Betsey – <i>Elmira, First</i>	Ex	P	P		
Delhagen, Kyle – <i>Palmyra, Western (RCA, Formula of Agreement)</i>	A	P	A		
Donnan, Ellen – <i>Dundee, First / Junius, Junius</i>	P	Ex	P		
Frigard, Beth – <i>Big Flats (Interim)</i>	A	A	P		
Griffis, Katherine – <i>Hornell, United</i>	P	P	P		
Grohman, Deb – <i>Ontario, Ontario</i>	Ex	P	Ex		
Heimberger, Gail – <i>Sodus, First United</i>	P	P	Ex		
Incze, Bruce Imre – <i>Arkport</i>		P	P		
Kennedy, Glen – <i>Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)</i>	P	A	Ex		
Kerr, James – <i>Canandaigua, United</i>	A	P	A		
Lester, Donald – <i>Howard, Union*</i>	A	A	A		
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – <i>Geneva, First</i>	P	P	P		
McDonald, John – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	A	P	P		
Malles, Paul – <i>Penn Yan, First</i>	P	P	Ex		
Marr, Peter – <i>Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*</i>	A	A	A		
Mellgard, Rob – <i>Ovid Federated</i>	P	P	P		
Ntuala, Leah – <i>Seneca Falls, First</i>	A	P	Ex		
O'Leary, Lucinda – <i>Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*</i>	Ex	A	P		
Peeples, Cheryl – <i>Trumansburg, First Ulysses</i>	P	P	P		
Preisendanz, David – <i>Elmira, North</i>	A	P	P		
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	P	P	A		
Roth, Russ – <i>Huron, Huron</i>	Ex	P	P		
Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps, United Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	Ex		
Ugoretz, Jeffrey – <i>Corning, First</i>	A	Ex	P		
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo, First (Temporary Supply)*</i>	P	P	P		
Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i>	A	P	P		
Yao, James – <i>Lodi, Lodi Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i>	Ex	P	P		
Yao, Nancy Meehan – <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor) Hammondsport, First (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	Transfer 04/10		
TOTAL PRESENT	13	23	17		
TOTAL EXCUSED	6	3	8		
TOTAL ABSENT	11	5	5		

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MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTERIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 21	Sept 26	Nov 18
Ashby, David (V) <i>Interim Pastor, Honeoye Falls, NY</i>	P	P	P		
Campbell, Anne (AL)	A	A	A		
Delhagen, Harold (V) <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	A	Ex	Ex		
Duncan, Russell (V) United Church of Salem, Salem, VT (UCC)	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) <i>Robinson Memorial PC, Syracuse, NY</i>	P	P	P		
Haines, Todd (AL)	A	A	A		
Huling Hummel, Cynthia (AL)	A	Ex	P		
McCollister, Dan (AL)	A	A	A		
Roth, Marjorie (V) <i>Chaplain, Friendly Home, Rochester, NY</i>	A	A	Ex		
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Warrington, Karl (AL)	A	A	A		
Weaver, Cindy (AL)	P	P	Ex		
TOTAL PRESENT	3	3	3		
TOTAL EXCUSED	2	4	5		
TOTAL ABSENT	7	5	4		

HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS (If serving a church, service is noted in parentheses)
(Honorably Retired Ministers, if not present, are automatically marked as "excused.")

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Barnard, David	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Bartel, Joanne	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Coffman, Fred	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Courtney, Philip	Ex	P	Ex		
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Crego, Peter	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Edwards, Sam	Ex	P	Ex		
Elder, John	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Farrell, Nancy	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Flaherty, Scott	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Gerling, Jim	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Gould, John	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Hicks, James	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Hood, Kenneth	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Husted, Susan	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Johnson, Timothy	P	P	P		
Karr-Lyon, Beverly	P	Ex	Ex		
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Kilgore, David	P	P	P		
Knight, Jonathan	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Magley, Fred	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Montgomery, Tom	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Murray, Virginia	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Newman, James	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Price, Richard	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Rochelle, Robert	Ex	P	Ex		
Teller, Gailey	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Tennies, Herb	P	Ex	Ex		
Tyrrell, Jamie— <i>Interim, Atlanta</i>	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Valk, John	Ex	Ex	Ex		
TOTAL PRESENT	4	5	2		

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CORRESPONDING MEMBERS WITH VOICE AND VOTE (Ministers of another Denomination or another Presbytery who are serving Presbyterian Churches in the Presbytery of Geneva)

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Badger Becker, Elder Linda (<i>Transitional Leader / Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)			P		
Elfond, the Rev. Cheryl Ann (<i>Elmira, North / Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley</i>)	A	A	A		
Lostetter, the Rev. Robin (<i>Palmyra, Western / Presbytery of Pittsburgh</i>)	A	A	Ex		
Shevlin, the Rev. Linda (<i>Naples, Trinity Federated / United Methodist Church</i>)	A	A			
Stuber, the Rev. Walter (<i>Wolcott / Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	A	P	A		
TOTAL PRESENT	1	2	1		
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0	1		
TOTAL ABSENT	4	3	2		

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS (Ministers of another denomination or another presbytery who serve the Presbytery of Geneva in roles other than pastor of a particular church. **VOICE, NOT VOTE**)

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (<i>Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	P	P	P		
Juhara (Jay) Shazer (<i>Lake Street / Fusion on Fire</i>)	A	A	P		
TOTAL PRESENT	1	1	1		
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0	0		

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
Addison, Addison	A	A		A	
Almond Union	A	P		A	
Andover, First	A	A		A	
Arkport, First	A	P	Duffy Eisenheimer		
Atlanta, Atlanta	A	P		A	
Bath, First	P	A	Barbara Scudder		
Benton, Bellona	P	A		A	
Big Flats, First	A	A	Robin Fitzgerald		
Burdett, Burdett	A	A		A	
Canandaigua, United	A	A		A	
Canisteo, Canisteo	P	P		A	
Cohocton, First	A	A		A	
Corning, First	A	A		A	
Dundee, First	P	A	Priscilla Andrews		
Elmira, First	P	P		A	
Elmira, Lake Street	A	A	Marsha Turner		
Elmira, North	P	P	Jeff Richards		
Elmira, Westminster	A	A		A	
Fayette, W. Fayette	A	A		A	
Geneva (1)	P	P	Edwin Frick		
Geneva (2)	P	P	Chris Gerling		
Hammondsport, First	A	A		A	
Hector, First	A	A		A	
Hornell, United	P	P	Lisa Sanford		
Horseheads, First	P	A		A	
Howard, Howard Union	A	A		A	

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Huron, Huron	P	P	Linda Hayes		
Ithaca, First	A	A	Sandra Greene		
Jasper, Jasper	A	A		A	
Junius, Junius	Ex	P		A	
Lodi, Lodi	P	P	Martha Cherwak		
Lyons, First	A	P		A	
Marion, United	A	A	Connie Franks		
Moreland, Moreland	A	A		A	
Naples, Trinity Fed.	P	P	Don Braun		
Newark, Park	P	P		A	
Oaks Corners	A	A		A	
Ontario, First	A	A		A	
Ovid Federated	P	P	Roberta Morris		
Painted Post, United	A	A		A	
Palmyra, East Palmyra	A	A		A	
Palmyra, Western	A	P	Phil Opdyke		
Penn Yan, First	A	P		Ex	
Phelps, United	P	A	Nan Clark		
Prattsburg, First	A	A		A	
Pulteney, First	A	A		A	
Red Creek	P	P		A	
Rock Stream	A	P	Gary Jones		
Romulus	A	A		A	
Seneca Falls, First	A	A		A	
Seneca, Seneca #9	A	A		A	
Shortsville, First	A	A		A	
Sodus, First United	A	P		A	
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	A	P	Tom Bailey		
Trumansburg, First of Ulysses	P	P	Kris Alling		
Waterloo, First	A	P	RuthAnn Marshall		
Watkins Glen, First	A	A		A	
Weston, Weston	P	A	Vera Dykes		
Williamson	A	A		A	
Wolcott	P	P		A	
TOTAL PRESENT	20	25	22		
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	0		1	
TOTAL ABSENT	39	36			37

**ADDITIONAL ELDER
COMMISSIONERS**

(Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Anderson, Rob	Penn Yan	222 nd GA Commissioner	Ex	P	P		
Andrews, Priscilla	Elmira, Lake	COM	P	A	P		
Baker, Phoebe		Nominating Chair	P	P	P		
Beals, Steven	West Fayette	CRE	A	P	A		
Braun, Joann	Naples, Fed	Moderator	P	P	P		
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	Ex	P	P		
Colvin, Donna	Ovid	Synod Commissioner	A	A	A		
Erb, Milt		Presbytery Treasurer	A	A	A		
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A	A	A		
Frost, Carleen		CRE	Ex	P	A		
Gingerich, John	Wolcott	CRE / CPM Chair	P	P	P		
Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	P	Ex	A		
Peek, Donald	Canistota	CRE	P	A	A		
Reynolds, Ellen	Geneva	General Council	P	P	P		
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE	A	A	A		

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Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE / Moderator	Ex	P	P		
Serra, Michelle		CRE			P		
Werts, Linda		P.W Representative	Ex	P	Ex		
TOTAL PRESENT			7	10	9		
TOTAL EXCUSED			5	1	1		
TOTAL ABSENT			5	6	8		

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)

Includes CREs not serving churches

Ken Allen	Canandaigua, United
Mark Stover	Arkport
Alice Kain	Elmira, Lake Street

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	21	33	22		
Total Elder Commissioners Present	27	35	31		
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+ 6	+2	+9		
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**	22	13	13		
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***	39	35	37		
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	29	22	32		
Total Registered Visitors	17	3	3		
Total Registered Attendance****	66	71	56		

* Includes Corresponding Members with voice and vote. Does not include Corresponding Members, with voice, not vote. Includes Validated, At-large, and Honorably Retired

** Does not include Corresponding Members with voice only; and Honorably Retired Ministers

*** Includes churches marked "excused"; does **not** include Additional Elder Commissioners, as they are not elected by sessions.

**** Includes Corresponding Members without vote

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

(Approval of Docket)

The presbytery VOTED to approve the docket for the meeting:

- 9:00 a.m. Registration
- 9:30 a.m. Call to Order/Presbytery convened with prayer -Joann Braun, Moderator
 Declaration of a Quorum
 Enrollment of Corresponding Members
 Welcome of New Elder Commissioners
 Approval of the Docket
 Approval of Minutes: Stated meeting of March 28, 2017
 Welcome from the Host Church
 Appoint composer of a resolution of thanks
 Announcements
 Report of the Stated Clerk - Val Fowler
 Transitional Leader – Linda Badger Becker
- 10:15 a.m. Personnel Committee, Cindy Weaver
- 10:25 a.m. Nominating Committee, Phoebe Baker

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10:30 a.m.	Installation of Vice-Moderator, the Rev. Katherine Griffis
11:00 a.m.	Budget & Finance
11:10 a.m.	Presbyterian Women – Lisa Sanford
11:20 a.m.	Anti Racism Task Force Report
11:30 a.m.	Worship
12:15 p.m.	Lunch in the Fellowship Hall
1:00 p.m.	Return to the Sanctuary
1:05 p.m.	General Council, Ellen Reynolds GA Amendments – Rob Anderson
1:30 p.m.	Committee on Ministry – A.J. Tierson Committee on Preparation for Ministry – John Gingerich
2:00 p.m.	Synod Mission and Ministry Commission
2:10 p.m.	Discipleship and Spiritual Development Growth Team, John McDonald Presentation to Bronwen Boswell, Ellen Reynolds and Joann Braun Resolution of Thanks Adjournment and closing Prayer - Vice-Moderator, Katherine Griffis

(Enrollment of Corresponding Members)

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

(Welcome of New Elder Commissioners)

The presbytery welcomed new and first-time elder commissioners from the following congregations:

(Welcome to the Presbytery)

David Preisendanz, Pastor, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of North Presbyterian Church, Elmira.

(Resolution of Thanks)

The Moderator appointed David Kilgore to prepare a *Resolution of Thanks*, to be presented at the end of the meeting.

(Announcements & Sharing)

Opportunity was given for persons to provide announcements for the presbytery.

STATED CLERK REPORT

Stated Clerk Action Items

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Privilege of Voice)

1. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will be making or participating in reports to the presbytery.

(Minutes, March 28, 2017)

2. **Approve** the Minutes of the March 28, 2017 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, held at the United Church of Phelps, Phelps, NY

(Report of the Review of Presbytery Minutes)

3. **Receive** the report of the review of the 2016 Minutes of the Presbytery of Geneva, conducted during the annual gathering of the stated clerks of the Synod of the Northeast, held at Stony Point Conference Center on April 26-27, 2017:

The minutes were approved with two exceptions:

1. There was no annual report of the Roster of the presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission. [This exception is addressed in Item A below.]
2. No report of the 2015 review of the presbytery minutes.

The minutes received the following commendations:

1. The reports regarding the Special Administrative Review Committee of the Synod of the Northeast are impressive and inspiring. The reports are complete, and the communication to the presbytery is well-done.
2. The minutes are clear, complete, and easy to read.
3. The attendance grid is very helpful.

Items for Presbytery's Information

Stated Clerk Information Items

(Roster of the Permanent Judicial Commission)

A. The *Book of Order* requires the stated clerk of a governing body to report annually to that governing body the names of the members of its Permanent Judicial Commission and the names of those whose terms have expired within the past six years:

The stated clerk of the council shall keep a current roster of those members of the permanent judicial commission whose terms have expired within the past six years. The names shall be arranged alphabetically within classes beginning with the most recent class. Whenever the permanent judicial commission reports its inability to obtain a quorum, the stated clerk shall immediately select, by rotation from that roster, a sufficient number of former members of the permanent judicial commission to constitute a quorum. The stated clerk shall report the roster annually to the council. [D-5.0206b.]

The following report for 2011 lists (1) the current roster of permanent judicial commission members and (2) the expired terms within the past six years.

Current Roster

Class of 2018 Elder Kate Merriman (Trumansburg))
The Rev. Rick Price (Honorably Retired)

Class of 2020 The Rev. Sarah West (Waterloo)
Elder Bob Sell, CRE (Horseheads)
The Rev. Peter Crego (Honorably Retired)

Expired Terms (2011 through 2017)

Elder Carol Heald (Lyons)

(Ordination Anniversaries)

B. The following are the significant ordination anniversaries of ministers that will occur this year (listed in 5-year increments):

10 years (2007)

The Rev. Leah Ntuala (October 21, 2007 – Presbytery of Muskingum Valley)

20 years (1997)

The Rev. Joann Bartel (March 23, 1997 – Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley)
The Rev. Janice Fitzgerald (December 12, 1997 – Presbytery of Genesee Valley)
The Rev. Cheryl Peoples (December 14, 1997 – Presbytery of Memphis)

25 years (1992)

The Rev. Richard Price (March 22, 1992 – Presbytery of Geneva)

30 years (1987)

The Rev. Stanley Bhasker (April 19, 1987 – Presbyterian Church of South India)
The Rev. Virginia Murray (July 12, 1987 – Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley)

35 years (1982)

The Rev. David Ashby (August 1, 1982 – Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse)

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The Rev. Scott Flaherty (April 23, 1982– Presbytery of Genesee Valley)

40 years (1977)

The Rev. Glen Kennedy (May 8, 1977– Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse)

45 years (1972)

The Rev. Peter Crego (May 14, 1972 – Presbytery of Utica)

The Rev. David Kilgore (March 26, 1972 – Presbytery of Redstone)

50 years (1967)

The Rev. Timothy Johnson (May 28, 1967 – Presbytery of Lake Huron)

Over 50 years

The Rev. Jim Hicks (**51 years**, July 29, 1966 – Presbytery of The Western Reserve)

The Rev. Sam Edwards (**52 years**, May 23, 1965 – Presbytery of Central Washington)

The Rev. Gilmore Creelman (**54 years**, June 18, 1963 – Presbytery of Mahoning)

The Rev. John Valk (**56 years**, October 15, 1961 – Presbytery of Newark)

The Rev. John Elder (**57 years**, May 20, 1960 – Presbytery of Northern New England)

The Rev. Herb Tennes (**59 years**, May 14, 1959)

The Rev. Dean Bemower (**65 years**, June 15, 1952 – Presbytery of Boston)

The Rev. Fred Coffman (**67 years**, July 1, 1950 – Presbytery of Philadelphia)

The Rev. Fred Magley (**69 years**, October 13, 1948 – Presbytery of Newark)

TRANSITIONAL LEADER

Linda Badger Becker celebrated the seven weeks of her presence with the presbytery, much of which has been spent in visiting congregations for worship, meeting leaders during meetings, and listening and learning about the life of the presbytery.

Linda shared several pictures of “happy Presbyterians,” taken during her travels. When Linda visits congregations, she takes pictures, and posts them on the presbytery Facebook page.

The June 16, 2017 meeting of the General Council will be a day-long opportunity for deepening relationships and for giving thoughtful attention to the processes of the transition in the life of the presbytery. This begins the process of discerning God’s call in a faithful transition. Linda encouraged prayers for the General Council.

Linda concluded her report by taking pictures of all the happy Presbyterians present at the meeting.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

There was no report, due to the unanticipated absence of the committee chair, due to a family emergency.

PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Elder Phoebe Baker, Chair, presented the report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee.

The presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons:

Vice-Moderator of Presbytery (to fulfill the unexpired term of the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao)

The Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell)

Committee Ministry (to complete unexpired terms)

Class of 2018:

The Rev. Jim Kerr (Canandaigua)

Class of 2017

Elder Bessie Tyrell (Atlanta)

Committee on Representation

Class of 2019:

The Rev. Kirk Baker (Newark)

Budget & Finance Committee (to complete an unexpired term)

Class of 2017:

Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer)

INSTALLATION OF VICE-MODERATOR

Moderator Joann Braun led a brief service for the Installation of the Rev. Katherine Griffis as Vice-Moderator of the Presbytery of Geneva.

Having answered the constitutional questions, and the presbytery having made its vows of support, the Rev. Griffis was introduced as the presbytery's Vice-Moderator.

The Moderator offered prayer.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

Elder Rob Anderson, a member of the General Council and Commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly (2016, Portland, OR) presented the Proposed Amendments to the *Constitution* of the PCUSA.

Upon request, Items G and H were removed for specific discussion. The process will be:

1. The presbytery will vote on Items A through F.
2. The presbytery will consider items G and H.

The presbytery VOTED by voice vote (the vote was not unanimous) to approve Items A through F of the following Proposed Amendments:

16-A – Youth & Child Protection Policy

It is important to recognize that protection/safety policy addresses issues that are broader than a sexual misconduct policy (e.g. the issue of medications needed during an event; the issue of adult supervision in a variety of settings; the issue of access in multi-level buildings, etc.)

16-B – Parity in Committees of Councils other than Sessions

This proposal would allow for flexibility in the creation of committees, by encouraging parity of clergy and non-clergy “as equal as possible.” It will be important to keep in mind the different challenges of presbyteries: some presbyteries have very few churches; some presbyteries involve great distances).

16-C – Ordered Ministry Titles

This proposed amendment restores the title, “Minister of Word and Sacrament.” The proposed amendment includes the title, “Teaching Elder,” thus providing an option.

16-D, 1 & 2 – Renunciation of Jurisdiction

The proposed amendment provides the opportunity for a person who has renounced the jurisdiction of the PCUSA to engage in volunteer or paid service, but only unless and until the person rejoins the church through a local congregation and re-submits to the process in place when he/she renounced jurisdiction (e.g. the disciplinary process).

16-E – Certified Service Requirements

This proposal would eliminate reference to a “handbook” and replace it with the “requirements of a national certifying body.”

16-F – Responsibilities of Membership

This proposal would add “Care of God’s creation” to the list of the responsibilities of church membership. The presbytery proceeded to consider the following items, separately.

16-G – Access to the Lord’s Table

The proposed amendment would provide for access to the Lord’s Table by non-baptized persons.

The presbytery engaged in debate concerning the proposed Amendment G.

The presbytery VOTED to approve Proposed Amendment 16-G. The vote was not unanimous.

16-H – New Directory for Worship

The proposal will shorten the Directory (to 5 chapters, from 7 chapters); organize the Directory more logically and accessibly; and include new guidance (e.g. worship within the surrounding culture).

The presbytery VOTED to approve Proposed Amendment 16-H. The vote was not unanimous.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Tim Johnson, Chair presented the report of the Budget & Finance Committee.

The annual full financial review was conducted last week, and the report will be provided to the Budget & Finance Committee in June. The report will be provided to the General Council and, subsequently, to the presbytery.

The presbytery’s income has been strong through the first five months of the year. Churches have been faithful in their commitments to the work of the presbytery.

The Committee is following up with congregations who did not fulfill their 2016 per capita and/or mission pledges.

Jane Winters spoke concerning the work of the Mission Grant Committee, which handles session-endorsed grants for mission. She clarified how the requests for “2 cents per meal” grants will be handled in the coming year.

Tim Johnson encouraged sessions who have received mission grants to consider preparing displays or other celebrative materials regarding the work that the presbytery’s grants have helped accomplish.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Lisa Sanford presented the report for Presbyterian Women.

Thirty women from twelve churches attended the Spring Gathering, held at Ovid Federated in April. Sarah West (Waterloo) provided worship for the event.

Lisa encouraged attendance at the Billsboro Winery, Geneva – which is a fund-raising event to support Elder Virginia Champlin who will be a delegate to the Womens Global Exchange in Indonesia.

REPORT: ANTI-RACISM WORKING GROUP

Val Fowler reported for the working group.

He reminded the presbytery of the second opportunity to reflect on the book *Waking Up White: And Finding Myself in the Story of Race*, by Debby Irving. The gathering will be held Saturday June 3, 2017, 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. at First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY.

He encouraged presbyters to plan to attend the Crossroads Anti-Racism Training Event to be held at Gates Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY on October 21, 2017, 8:30 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. The event is co-hosted by the Presbyteries of Geneva, Genesee Valley, and Western New York.

The planned table conversations during the lunch hour will be postponed until the September presbytery meeting.

SYNOD MISSION & MINISTRY COMMISSION

Virginia Champlin presented a report of the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission.

She encouraged participation in several events hosted by the Synod of the Northeast, all of which can be accessed on the Synod of the Northeast website:

- A clean water/clean air conference at Stony Point
- A Prison Network conference at Stony Point
- Coaching Network: Synod-sponsored scholarships are available (Betsey Crimmins and Janice Fitzgerald are contacts from the Presbytery of Geneva)
- Mission *Innovation Grants* are available from the Synod

Virginia encouraged attendance at the upcoming “Come to the Table” event sponsored by the Synod. This is the second such event offered by the Synod.

DISCIPLESHIP & SPIRITUAL GROWTH TEAM

John McDonald presented the report, noting that the Team has met twice since the last presbytery meeting.

A letter will be sent to the sessions encouraging nominations of possible Young Adult Advisory Delegates to the 223rd General Assembly (2018, St. Louis, MO).

The Team continues to work on developing a contact list for campus ministry programs at the colleges and universities within the bounds of the Presbytery of Geneva. He noted that there are campus ministry grants available from the Synod of the Northeast.

John noted that the “Come to the Table” event is open to all young adults, and encouraged congregations to make possible the attendance of young adults.

GENERAL COUNCIL

Ellen Reynolds, Chair, presented the report of the General Council.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY:

Acting on behalf of the presbytery, the General Council VOTED to:

(Rural & Migrant Ministries – Grant Endorsement)

1. **Endorse** a grant application for available General Assembly restricted funds, on behalf of Rural & Migrant Ministries for \$1,496.00 of available restricted funds through the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (USA).

(Family Promise of Wayne County – Grant Endorsement)

2. **Endorse** two grant applications for available General Assembly restricted funds, on behalf of Family Promise of Wayne County [see **Attachment A**, below]:
 - #59251, for \$1,707.00
 - #58842, for \$1,423.00

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY’S INFORMATION:

The Council VOTED to:

(Communion)

1. **Approve** the service of the Lord’s Supper during the Fall Gathering on September 9, 2017. The Rev. Katherine Griffis will officiate.

(General Council Day Apart)

2. **Set aside** a day to be together, to reflect, and to plan: Tuesday June 13, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The location will be confirmed soon. A short Council meeting will be built into the day’s agenda, to conduct necessary business. The hoped-for outcome will be: To leave the day with a shared sense of destination.

(West Virginia Mission Trip – September 2017)

3. **Approve** a Presbytery of Geneva West Virginia Mission Trip, scheduled for September 10-16, 2017. [See report of April Mission Trip, **Attachment B**, below.]

ATTACHMENT A to Council Report
Family Promise Proposal
Executive Summary

Throughout the United States, homelessness touches nearly every city and town. Estimates of the homeless population range from 1 to 3 million. Our nation's diverse homeless population includes a growing number of single and two-parent families. Sadly, one homeless person out of five is a child five years of age or younger.

Here in Wayne County, families are living in poverty and deal with homelessness at least 300 times each year (according to school data). As you may know, there are no homeless shelters in Wayne County (just limited beds for individuals who qualify for other services). Families in Wayne County must find makeshift, inadequate arrangements living in automobiles, doubling and tripling up with relatives or friends, or living in housing unfit for human habitation.

The initiative described in this proposal is part of a proven and successful national program that has effectively addressed the crisis of family homelessness in communities across the country.

Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. will:

- provide shelter, meals, and comprehensive assistance (to find housing and jobs) for homeless families with children, utilizing existing facilities and services throughout the community;
- encourage and increase volunteerism in the community to provide direct services on behalf of homeless and low-income families.

Family Promise is a collaborative effort: houses of worship provide rooms for overnight shelter; social service agencies refer homeless families and provide a day center; and the congregations supply the volunteers. Because existing resources are used, a Family Promise Affiliate is cost efficient, having no need for a sizable paid staff, facility construction, or renovation costs.

The Board of Trustees of Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. has set a target opening date of January 1, 2018. Thus far 5 area congregations have committed to serve as host facilities. FWPC is close to completing an agreement for a centrally-located day center, which will include an office for the Director, showers, laundry, a play area for small children, a learning space, and a room for parents to meet with service providers. First year start-up and operating expenses are estimated at \$157,000. To help establish Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y., we are respectfully requesting a grant of \$2,000 from the Presbytery of Geneva.

Organizational Background

Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. is a non-profit organization that will provide shelter, meals and comprehensive assistance for homeless families. Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. is a collaborative effort that will involve over twenty congregations, the Family Promise of Wayne County day center and Wayne County social service agencies. A salaried director will be hired to provide case management to families, and to train and coordinate volunteers. A Board of Trustees currently comprising 12 members is actively developing the program, and will oversee program operation.

Statement of Need

Here in New York State, there are approximately 11,700 homeless families, with nearly 30,000 of those living Upstate (NYSDoE, 2013). More specifically, in our Continuous Service Area there are an estimated 187 homeless individuals (AHAR 2015, HUD), with 11% of Wayne County families living in poverty, and without a permanent home. Currently, *there are no transitional shelters for families in our county*. All the families who experience homelessness, with nowhere to turn, are forced to live in abandoned buildings or cars in Wayne County. Clearly, there is a critical need for emergency shelter and support services in our community.

Program Description

The Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. will consist of over two dozen congregations, who together will harness the resources of 800 to 1,000 volunteers. Each participating church serves as a host congregation for three to five homeless families for a one-week period, four to six times each year. The host congregation provides meals and overnight sleeping accommodations for approximately 150 family members annually. Guest families spend the day at a Day Center, where they care for children and look for jobs and housing. A van owned by Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. will transport guests to the Day Center each morning and back to the host congregation in the evening.

Local social service agencies refer homeless families to Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y., and work cooperatively to provide day programs, including employment training, counseling, entitlement orientation, child care and health care. A director, a social worker who provides case management services to the families, works out of the day center/administrative office. The director also promotes linkages to other community agencies and facilitates volunteer services.

Goals and Objectives

The principal goals of Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. are to:

- provide shelter, meals, and case management for homeless families.
- help homeless families find a home.
- refer homeless families to appropriate agencies for job training or retraining and family services.
- increase volunteerism in the community and advocacy for meeting the needs of low-income and homeless families.

Specific objectives are to

- recruit at least 13 host congregations to provide shelter for homeless families within their own facilities.
- recruit 40 to 60 volunteers to staff each week's operation at a host church.
- provide private sleeping accommodations, and all meals (dinner, breakfast, and a bag lunch), 365 days a year for up to 14 homeless people each night.
- provide shelter, meals, and support services in a cost-effective way, using volunteers, community facilities, agencies, and other local resources. Generally a Family Promise's cost per person per day is less than one third the average cost in traditional shelters.
- help 70% or more of homeless families in the program obtain suitable housing.

Staffing

Trained volunteers are at the heart of Family Promise program. They operate the program at their congregations and provide personal support for homeless families, who are considered guests of the Affiliate. Volunteers set up beds, cook meals, do laundry, and perform many other tasks. Volunteers work in shifts, and stay overnight at the congregation's facility.

By sharing meals and conversation, by interacting with and listening to parents and children, the volunteers come to know the human face of homelessness and learn about its root causes. Volunteers not only work in their congregation's facility but also help guests find housing, jobs, and job training opportunities.

In the beginning, Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. will have three staff members only: a full-time director, a part-time case manager, and a part-time van driver. The director trains volunteers, supervises the day center, evaluates and refers families to the Affiliate, and puts families in contact with needed services. The director makes sure that children in the Affiliate are enrolled in school.

Working together, utilizing the proven and effective model of the Family Promise program, Affiliate volunteers and directors across the country have made a dramatic impact on the lives of thousands of formerly homeless people. Nationwide, approximately 70% of Family Promise guest families secure housing. We want to replicate this statistic in Wayne County, N.Y.

Family Promise's Impact on the Religious Community

Participation in a Family Promise of Wayne Co., N.Y. provides a direct way for lay people to be involved in outreach to homeless people.

Family Promise's Affiliate mission appeals to members of a religious community, even those who have not been committed to any other form of religious service. Family Promise offers members the opportunity to get involved with homeless families in a personal, "hands-on" way—to have a chance to get to know homeless family members one-on-one. Volunteering can be done right in the volunteer's own congregation, and there is a job for everyone—including young people and senior citizens. In participating congregations, stereotypes and prejudices often break down as volunteers see that homeless families are "just like them." As personal relationships are established, volunteers may continue their involvement with homeless families long after they leave Family Promise of Wayne Co., N.Y. Volunteers may also begin to initiate other programs to help homeless families. As the lives of volunteers change, so do the congregations themselves.

Some clergy members have remarked that participation in Family Promise was a "turning point" in their ministry and their congregation, causing them to become less ingrown. Others maintain that Affiliate became the focal point for renewal, as a spirit of "cooperation and generosity" increased among parishioners.

Family Promise unites many different streams of the religious community into a joint mission effort. By sharing a mutual concern and response to the problem of homelessness, relationships are born that transcend denominations and cultures. A common purpose enriches not only the congregations themselves but the life of an entire community.

"Of all the outreach ministries of our church, Family Promise has been easiest to 'sell' and the one that fills up soonest with volunteers. After all, it's Biblical. The spiritual gift of hospitality means nothing less than, literally, 'a love of strangers.' It's real love in action, broadening perspectives on poverty and homelessness, and allowing singles and whole family units an opportunity to be servants and to make new friends at the same time."

[Rev. Dean Nadasdy, Cross View Lutheran Church, Edina, MN]

Method of Evaluation

Family Promise of Wayne County's Director and Board of Trustees will evaluate the effectiveness of [Affiliate] after it has been operational for one year. The evaluation will, in part, be based on consultations with representatives from the program, including volunteers and guest families.

Evaluation criteria will include the following:

- The number of homeless families served.
- The number of homeless families who secured housing.
- The number of homeless individuals who secured employment.
- The number of volunteers and congregations involved and, after the Affiliate has been operational for two years, the number of other volunteer-based, community initiatives that develop as an outgrowth of the Affiliate.

Future Funding

Once fully operational, Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. will have the unique advantage of broad participation from the community, resulting in ongoing support from volunteers and congregations. With over 800 volunteers and much of the religious community participating, the Affiliate will become self-sufficient, drawing approximately 50% of its funding from participants. Other funds will be secured from foundations, corporations, governmental agencies and civic organizations.

Conclusion

Denominational support for Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. is an investment in helping homeless families. It is also an investment in building stronger communities throughout Wayne County. Fortunately, homelessness is typically a temporary situation. Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. will offer a lifeline—a connection to caring volunteers and community services that can help families work through their temporary crisis toward hope, improved circumstances, and ultimately, independent living.

This collaborative effort will also be a catalyst for the development of other community initiatives that address the root causes of poverty and homelessness. When fully operational, we expect that Family Promise of Wayne County, N.Y. will develop programs in areas such as parenting, GED preparation, and renovation of low-income housing.

ATTACHMENT B to the Council Report - NEWS RELEASE - April 30, 2017

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA MISSION TEAM REPAIRS HOMES IN WV

A Presbytery of Geneva WV Mission Team composed of volunteers representing Park Presbyterian Church of Newark, The First Presbyterian Church of Geneva and Corning First Presbyterian Church traveled to Summersville WV by car on Sunday, April 23rd, and returned on Saturday, April 29th after a week of hard work. Team members included Fritz Aude – Geneva; Paul & Jeanne Salisbury, Karen Watson, and Curt Richardson - Newark; Derwin Nelson, Frank Hamm, and Ken Baer – Corning; Dee Wickman – Rochester. Sue Kirby from the Asheboro NC First Presbyterian Church also participated with the team. The team was housed in the First Presbyterian Church of Summersville WV.

West Virginia Ministry of Advocacy Workcamps, Inc (WVMAW) plans and coordinates the week's work. Work can include home repair and reconstruction, deconstruction, playground restoration, parks cleanup, stream bank stabilization, and vacation Bible schools. WVMAW is supported in part by Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Synod of the Trinity and The Presbytery of West Virginia as well as churches and individual donations. The Presbytery of Geneva Mission Team is one of 40 – 80 volunteer groups coming from churches of various faith traditions, as well as from colleges and universities. The cost for a week-long mission experiences is \$250 per person.

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA STATED MEETING

**NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ELMIRA, NY
SATURDAY MAY 20, 2017**

The team's mission work involved home repairs on 2 homes and installation of a deck and ramp. The homes are located near Birch River WV where flooding occurred in June 2016. The team also completed installation of dry wall and painting for 2 new showers at the host church in Summersville WV.

Trip Coordinator, Paul Salisbury, reported the two residents receiving the home improvements were unable to accomplish the needed work. Team members were rewarded with hugs of appreciation for their efforts.

WVMAW Site Supervisor Tim Stewart is responsible for reviewing applications. He conducts interviews and home visitations as part of the process to identify those most needy.

Salisbury said the work trip provides the opportunity for discipleship by partnering with those in need due to natural disasters or poverty in areas of West Virginia. He related that the decrease in the demand for coal has caused coal mines to close, resulting in economic hardship for many WV residents.

The Presbytery plans to return for another week of mission work in September 2017. Persons interested in joining the team should contact the Presbytery Office in Penn Yan NY (presbyteryofgeneva.org).

WORSHIP

The service of the Lord's Supper was led by the Rev. David Preisendanz and the Rev. Janice Fitzgerald.

LUNCH

Moderator Joan Braun offered grace for the meal, and the presbytery recessed to the Fellowship Hall for lunch, provided by the United Church of Phelps.

RECONVENING

The presbytery reconvened, with vice-moderator Katherine Griffis assuming leadership of the meeting.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

A. J. Tierson, co-chair, presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Romulus Administrative Commission)

1. **Elect** Elder Kermit Bossard (Spencer) to the Administrative Commission for the Romulus Presbyterian Church. [NOTE: Elder Bossard serves as the COM liaison with the Romulus church.]

(Commissioning / Commissioned Ruling Elder)

2. **Commission** Ruling Elder Dick Schied, CRE to the Pulpit Supply List, so that he may officiate communion at his home church, First Presbyterian Church, Hammondsport, NY.

Vice-Moderator Katherine Griffis proceeded to lead the Service of Commissioning Ruling Elder Dick Schied. At the conclusion of the service, she offered prayer.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

(Horseheads / Mission Study)

1. **Approve** the Mission Study of the First Presbyterian Church, Horseheads, NY.
2. **Grant permission** for the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

(Park, Newark / Ministry Information Form)

3. **Approve** the Ministry Information Form for Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NT and **authorize** submission of the Form to Church Leadership Connection.

(Hammondsport / Elder Dick Schied, CRE)

4. **Grant** a temporary waiver of presbytery policy to allow the service of Elder Dick Schied, CRE as “Stated Pulpit Supply” for First Presbyterian Church, Hammondsport, NY, for a period of 8 months. During 6 months of that time, the church will develop a Ministry Information Form to facilitate the search for a half-time Pastor.

[NOTE: Elder Dick Schied, CRE was previously commissioned to the Pulpit Supply List, with authorization to serve communion at the invitation of a session.]

(Watkins Glen / the Rev. Cindy Weaver)

5. **Approve** the Temporary Supply Covenant (1/4 time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY and the Rev. Cindy Weaver, for one year effective April 5, 2017 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	7,195.00
Housing Allowance	4,262.00
SECA offset	931.54
Pension	1,339.47

Mileage at the current IRS rate

Vacation & Study leave per presbytery guidelines for ¼ time.

The Committee noted that the Pastor Nominating Committee is active, and is seeking a call for a full-time Pastor.

(Liaison Assignments -- Revisions)

6. (Action in March) **Approve** the following liaison assignments for the congregations assigned to the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao:

Lyons – Ellen Donnan
Geneva – Rob Mellgard
Phelps – Ellen Donnan
Romulus – Kermit Bossard
Oaks Corners – A.J. Tierson

7. (Action in April) **Appoint** the Rev. Jim Kerr as COM Liaison to the following churches:

Lyons
Geneva
Phelps
Oaks Corners

The revised Liaison Assignments list is **Attachment A**.

(Exit Interviews)

8. **Receive** the Exit Interview with the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao (Interim Pastor, Watkins Glen) conducted by the Rev. Jim Hicks, COM liaison.

(Emergency Assistance for Clergy)

9. The Transitional Leader reported that she had received from one of our clergy members a request for assistance, for unanticipated health-related expenses. In the past, there was an “Executive Discretionary Fund” but that fund no longer exists, and there are no resources for such assistance.

The Board of Pensions does have an Assistance Program, but that program is designed to provide matching funds from the presbytery. A few Committee members shared the assistance practices of neighboring presbyteries.

Stanley Bhasker agreed to work with the Transitional Leader to develop a proposal for an Assistance Program, to be presented to the COM in June.

ATTACHMENT A to COM Report
Liaison Assignments Revised April 4, 2017

Kirk Allen:

Addison
Big Flats
Jasper
Painted Post
Westminster, Elmira

Priscilla Andrews:

Bath
Hammondsport
Penn Yan
Pulteney
Rock Stream,
Weston

Stanley Bhasker:

Corning
Corning Chinese Christian Church
Cohocton
Hornell

Kerm Bossard:

Burdette
Hector
Lodi
Romulus
Trumansburg

Ellen Donnan:

Newark
Red Creek

Bill Fox:

Canandaigua
Huron
Ontario Center
Sodus
Wolcott

Jim Kerr:

Lyons
Geneva
Oaks Corners
Phelps

Jim Hicks:

Ithaca
Ovid
Watkins Glen

Rob Mellgard:

Bellona
Seneca Falls,
Seneca #9
Waterloo,
West Fayette

Carol Merrell:

East Palmyra
Junius
Marion
Shortsville

AJ Tierson:

Palmyra Western

Dick Schied:

Atlanta
Dundee
Moreland
Naples
Prattsburgh

Jim Varner:

Almond
Andover
Arkport
Canisteo
Howard Union

Jane Winters:

Elmira North
Elmira Lake Street & Fusion on Fire
Elmira First
Horseheads
Spencer

(Small Church Network)

Priscilla Andrews reported concerning the Small Church Network, and the recent gathering in Penn Yan. Thirteen churches were represented by the thirty attendees. Participants have offered appreciation for the event and enthusiasm about gathering again. A second gathering is in the planning stages: Saturday June 17, 2017.

At this point in the presbytery's life, thirty-five churches have fewer than 75 persons in worship.

(Appreciation and Good-bye)

Ellen Donnan introduced the Rev. Jim Yao, who has been a faithful member of the presbytery, former Treasurer of the presbytery; and who will be leaving the presbytery on June 30, 2017 to join his wife in

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**NORTH PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ELIMIRA, NY
May 20, 2017**

Shenandoah Presbytery. Jim offered words of appreciation to the presbytery, and shared what his immediate plans and hopes are.

Ellen Donnan offered prayer.

Ellen Donnan introduced the Rev. Russ Roth. His wife, the Rev. Marjorie Roth, has received a call to chaplaincy in the New York City area, and they will be leaving the presbytery soon. Russ will be seeking a call in that area.

Ellen Donnan offered prayer.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

John Gingerich, Chair, reported for the Committee.

Two years ago, the presbytery approved an Organization and Procedures Manual for work with Commissioned Ruling Elders.

The Committee has been working on a Manual for Teaching Elder inquirers and candidates. The document is available for a first reading, with action on the request for approval to be taken during the September meeting of the presbytery. John noted that the Manual includes a section on indebtedness. **Questions, editorial suggestions, and content suggestions should be communicated to John Gingerich prior to the September meeting of the presbytery.**

TWO CENTS A MEAL

At the request of several presbyters, Jane Winters described the “2 Cents a Meal Program” to the presbytery. It is out of those funds that the presbytery grants for hunger ministries are made.

On the www.pcusa.org website the program is described under “Cents Ability.”

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

David Kilgore presented the Resolution of Thanks:

For a beautiful day for travel,

We give thanks to God.

For the hospitality of the Elmira, North congregation.

We give thanks to God.

For a delicious lunch—eventually with gravy—

We give thanks to God.

For inspiring worship in praises sung word spoken, and bread broken,

We give thanks to God.

And for all those who worked behind the scenes to make our meeting smooth and easy,

We give thanks to God.

CLOSING

The presbytery VOTED to adjourn the meeting. Vice-Moderator Katherine Griffis offered the closing prayer.

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk

**Next Meeting of the Presbytery:
Tuesday September 26, 2017 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, NY**