

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HORSEHEADS, NY
MARCH 15, 2016**

**Stated Meeting ~ Presbytery of Geneva
Saturday March 15, 2016
First Presbyterian Church, Horseheads, New York**

*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 Tuesday March 15, 2016 at First Presbyterian Church, Horseheads, New York.

CONVENING

Elder Dick Schied CRE, 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 30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
Austin, Amy Loving – <i>Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca #9</i>	P	P			
Baker, Kirk – <i>Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)</i>	P	P			
Bhasker, Stanley – <i>Bath, Bath</i>	P	P			
Crimmins, Betsey – <i>Elmira, First</i>	P	P			
Donnan, Ellen – <i>Dundee, First / Junius, Junius</i>	P	P			
Duncan, Russell – <i>Lyons, First</i>	Ex	P			
Griffis, Katherine – <i>Hornell, United</i>	P	Ex			
Grohman, Deb – <i>Ontario, Ontario</i>	P	A			
Heimberger, Gail – <i>Sodus, First United</i>	P	P			
Kennedy, Glen – <i>Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P			
Kerr, James - <i>Canandaigua, United</i>	Ex	P			
Knight, Jonathan – <i>Horseheads, First</i>	A	P			
Lester, Donald – <i>Howard, Union*</i>	A	A			
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – <i>Geneva, First</i>	P	P			
McDonald, John – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	P	P			
Malles, Paul – <i>Penn Yan, First</i>	Ex	P			
Marr, Peter – <i>Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*</i>	A	A			
Ntuala, Leah – <i>Seneca Falls, First</i>	P	P			
O'Leary, Lucinda – <i>Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*</i>	P	P			
Peeples, Cheryl – <i>Trumansburg, First Ulysses</i>	Ex	P			
Price, Richard – <i>Big Flats, Big Flats</i>	P	P			
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	A	P			
Roth, Russ – <i>Huron, Huron</i>	P	P			
Smith, Paul – <i>Marion, Marion*</i>	A	A			
Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps, United Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P			
Ugoretz, Jeffrey – <i>Corning, First</i>	P	A			
Weaver, Cindy (<i>Ovid Federated</i>)	Ordained	04/24/16			
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo, First (Temporary Supply)*</i>	A	P			
Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i>	P	P			
Yao, James – <i>Lodi, Lodi Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i>	P	Ex			
Yao, Nancy Meehan – <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor) Hammondsport, First (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P			
TOTAL PRESENT	20	23			
TOTAL EXCUSED	4	2			

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TOTAL ABSENT	6	5			
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MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
Ashby, David (V) <i>Interim Pastor, Honeoye Falls, NY</i>	Ex	Ex			
Campbell, Anne (AL)	A	A			
Delhagen, Harold (V) <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	A	Ex			
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) <i>Pultneyville, Reformed</i>	P	P			
Haines, Todd (AL)	A	A			
Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A	A			
McCollister, Dan (AL)	A	A			
Moore, Banu (AL)	A	Ex			
Moore, James (AL)	P	Ex			
Roth, Marjorie (V) <i>Chaplain, Friendly Home, Rochester, NY</i>	A	A			
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	A	Ex			
Warrington, Karl (AL)	A	Ex			
TOTAL PRESENT	2	1			
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	6			
TOTAL ABSENT	9	5			

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 30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
Barnard, David	Ex	Ex			
Bartel, Joanne	Ex	Ex			
Bembower, Dean	Ex	Ex			
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex	Ex			
Bollinger, Zane	Ex	Ex			
Coffman, Fred	Ex	P			
Courtney, Philip					
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex	Ex			
Crego, Peter	Ex	Ex			
Edwards, Sam	Ex	Ex			
Elder, John	Ex	Ex			
Farrell, Nancy	Ex	Ex			
Flaherty, Scott	Ex	Ex			
Gerling, Jim	Ex	Ex			
Gould, John	Ex	Ex			
Hicks, James	Ex	P			
Hood, Kenneth	Ex	Ex			
Husted, Susan	Ex	Ex			
Johnson, Timothy	P	P			
Karr-Lyon, Beverly	Ex	Ex			
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex	Ex			
Kilgore, David	P	P			
Magley, Fred	Ex	Ex			
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex	Ex			
Montgomery, Tom	Ex	P			
Murray, Virginia	Ex	Ex			
Newman, James	Ex	Ex			
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex	Ex			
Outterson, Hugh	Deceased	01/18/16			
Rochelle, Robert	Ex	Ex			
Teller, Gailey	Ex	Ex			
Tennies, Herb	Ex	Ex			

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Tyrrell, Jamie-- <i>Interim, Atlanta</i>	Ex	Ex			
Valk, John	Ex	Ex			
TOTAL PRESENT	2	5			

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 30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
Boswell, the Rev. Bronwen (<i>Temporary Transitional Leader / Presbytery of Western New York</i>)	P	P			
Elfond, the Rev. Cheryl Ann (<i>Elmira, North / Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley</i>)	A	P			
Gasparri, the Rev. Francis (<i>Williamson / American Baptist Church</i>)	A	P			
Lostetter, the Rev. Robin (<i>Palmyra, Western / Presbytery of Pittsburgh</i>)	A	P			
Shevlin, the Rev. Linda (<i>Naples, Trinity Federated / United Methodist Church</i>)	P	A			
Stuber, the Rev. Walter (<i>Wolcott / Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	Ex	Ex			
TOTAL PRESENT	2	4			
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	1			
TOTAL ABSENT	3	1			

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	Jan30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (<i>Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	P	P			
TOTAL PRESENT	1	1			
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0			

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
Addison, Addison	A	A			
Almond Union	A	A			
Andover, First	A	A			
Arkport, First	A	A			
Atlanta, Atlanta	A	A			
Bath, First	Kathleen Swan	Ex			
Benton, Bellona	Jan Newby	Jan Newby			
Big Flats, First	A	A			
Burdett, Burdett	A	A			
Canandaigua, United	A	Ron Fulle			
Canisteo, Canisteo	A	A			
Cohocton, First	A	A			
Corning, First	A	Kirk Allen			
Dundee, First	A	A			
Elmira, First	Rehana Stanley	Unreadable			
Elmira, Lake Street	A	Alice Kain			
Elmira, North	A	Jeff Rikus			
Elmira, Westminster	A	A			
Fayette, W. Fayette	A	A			
Geneva (1)	Bill Fox	Bill Fox			
Geneva (2)	A	Chris Gerling			
Hammondsport, First	James Walling	A			
Hector, First	Susan Rocholl	A			

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Hornell, United	Cheryl A. Green	Cheryl Green			
Horseheads, First	James Zearfoss	A			
Howard, Howard Union	A	A			
Huron, Huron	Linda Hayes	Lois Wafler			
Ithaca, First	Sandra Greene	Ex			
Jasper, Jasper	A	A			
Junius, Junius	Kristi Crance Ward	Ex			
Lodi, Lodi	Amanda McGonigal	Martha Cherwak			
Lyons, First	A	Tracy Rankert			
Marion, United	A	A			
Moreland, Moreland	Robert Bellman	Robert Bellman			
Naples, Trinity Fed.	Don Braun	A			
Newark, Park	Paul Salisbury	A			
Oaks Corners	Ernest Day Sr.	A			
Ontario, First	A	A			
Ovid Federated	A	Roberta Morris			
Painted Post, United	A	A			
Palmyra, East Palmyra	A	A			
Palmyra, Western	Phil Opdyke	Phil Opdyke			
Penn Yan, First	Sue Goodrich	Sue Goodrich			
Phelps, United	A	A			
Prattsburg, First	A	A			
Pulteney, First	Hariette Potter	Rosanna Bates			
Red Creek	A	A			
Rock Stream	A	A			
Romulus	A	A			
Seneca Falls, First	A	A			
Seneca, Seneca #9	A	A			
Shortsville, First	A	A			
Sodus, First United	Jim Hopkins	A			
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	Tom Bailey	Kermit Bossard			
Trumansburg, First of Ulysses	A	Virginia Miller			
Waterloo, First	A	A			
Watkins Glen, First	Karen Rhodes	Karen Rhodes			
Weston, Weston	Vera Dykes	A			
Williamson	A	Kevin Ginett			
Wolcott	A	Carol Merrell			
TOTAL PRESENT	23	22			
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	3			
TOTAL ABSENT	37	35			

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

(Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 30	Mar 15	May 21	Sept 27	Nov 12
Alling, Kris	Trumansburg	General Council	P	P			
Andrews, Priscilla	Elmira, Lake	COM	P	P			
Baker, Phoebe		Nominating Chair		P			
Beals, Steven	West Fayette	CRE	P	Ex			
Braun, Joann	Naples, Fed	Vice-Moderator	P	P			
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	A	P			
Colvin, Donna	Ovid	Synod Commissioner	P	P			
Erb, Milt		Presbytery Treasurer	P				
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A	P			
Gingerich, John		CRE / CPM Chair		P			
Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	A	P			
Peek, Donald	Canistota	CRE	P	A			
Reynolds, Ellen	Geneva	General Council	P	P			
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE	A				
Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE / Moderator	P	P			
Weaver, Cindy	Ithaca	Personnel Co-chair	P	P	Ordained	as Teaching	Elder

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TOTAL PRESENT		10	12			
TOTAL EXCUSED		0	1			
TOTAL ABSENT		4	1			

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)

Includes CREs not serving churches

Kirsten Alling	Trumansburg
Susan Frost	Lodi
Harriette Potter	Pulteney
D. O'Leary	Rock Stream
Amy Schreiber	Williamson
Patricia S. Petty	Williamson
Deane Ginnett	Williamson
Dick Benedict	Williamson
Ellen Benedict	Williamson
Don Braun	Naples
Bob Sell	Horseheads
Robert Anderson	Penn Yan
Barbara Dove	Elmira, Lake Street
Larry Bates	Bath

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 30	Mar 14	May19	Sept 19	Nov
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	26	33			
Total Elder Commissioners Present	33	34			
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+ 7	+1			
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**	16	11			
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***	36	36			
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	25	23			
Total Registered Visitors	14	14			

* 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.

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

(New Commissioners / Guests)

Elder Sue Goodrich introduced Elder Rob Anderson, M.D. (Penn Yan) who will be the Elder Commissioner to the 222nd General Assembly (Portland, OR). Rob will be serving on the Committee on Middle East Issues.

The presbytery welcomed guests present for the meeting.

(Approval of Docket)

The presbytery VOTED to approve the final docket for the meeting.

(Minutes of Previous Meeting)

The presbytery VOTED to approve the minutes of the January 30, 2016 stated meeting.

(Privilege of Voice)

The presbytery VOTED to grant privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will be making or participating in reports to the presbytery.

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH / RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Rev. Jon Knight welcomed the presbytery to First Presbyterian Church, Hammondsport, NY. He noted that the sanctuary was designed by a student of Frank Lloyd Wright, and designed to resemble a tent. He shared some information about the stained glass windows in the Fellowship Hall. Researchers believe that the registered Tiffany "Good Shepherd" window is earliest window of that theme installed by Tiffany & Co. He noted that the church's Food Pantry will open at noon, having decided to remain open during the presbytery meeting.

The Moderator appointed David Kilgore to draft a Resolution of Thanks to the host congregation for presentation at the end of the meeting.

PART-TIME TEMPORARY TRANSITIONAL LEADER

Bronwen Boswell shared with the presbytery her "itinerary" over the past few weeks, focusing on her efforts to be with folks where they are. She currently is in the presbytery office on Tuesdays, and visiting and attending gatherings one other day each week.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated clerk pro-tem, the Rev. Val Fowler presented the report.

The stated clerk called attention to the printed report which is included in the materials for the meeting, and is printed here:

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Presbytery of Geneva

March 15, 2016 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Horseheads, NY

Stated Clerk Action Items

The stated clerk moves that the presbytery:

(Minutes, January 30, 2016)

1. **Approve** the Minutes of the January 30, 2016 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, held at First Presbyterian Church, Hammondsport, NY.

(Summary of the Annual Statistical Report for the year 2015)

2. **Receive** the summary of the Annual Statistical Report for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, as of December 31, 2015.

Prior Active Members (12/31/2014)	5,641
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Gains

Profession 17 & under	36
Profession 18 & over	75
Certificate	33
Other	25
Total of Gains	169

Losses

Certificate	24
Death	158
Other	258
Total of Losses	440

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Net Gain/Losses	- 271	
Total Active Membership (12/31/2015)		5,370
Average Church Attendance (total, presbytery-wide)		2,665
Affiliate members	112	
Baptisms		
Children	73	
Adult	19	

Thirteen congregations reported **net gains in membership** this past year.

Ithaca	9
Watkins Glen	9
Almond	3
Elmira, First	3
Hammondsport	3
Marion	3
Waterloo	2
Williamson	2
Burdett	1
Dundee	1
Junius	1
Phelps	1
Red Creek	1

Eleven congregations reported **adult baptisms** this past year.

Arkport	7
Hammondsport	3
Andover	1
Bath	1
Canandaigua	1
Elmira, Lake Street	1
Ithaca	1
Lyons	1
Phelps	1
Seneca #9	1
Watkins Glen	1

Stated Clerk Information Items

(Training Events for Clerks of Session & Pastors)

A. The Polity & Review Committee has met and planned regional gatherings for clerks of session and pastors during April and the first Saturday of May, 2016. The locations were designed so that no one would have to drive more than 30-40 minutes.

- ❖ Saturday April 2 – United Church of Hornell ~ 10:00 a.m. - Noon
- ❖ Saturday April 9 – First Presbyterian, Bath ~ 10:00 a.m. - Noon
- ❖ Saturday April 16 – Lyons Presbyterian, Lyons ~ 10:00 a.m. - Noon
- ❖ Saturday April 23 – Presbyterian Church of Geneva ~ 10:00 a.m. - Noon
- ❖ Saturday May 7 – First Presbyterian, Elmira ~ 10:00 a.m. - Noon

Hoped-for Outcomes:

By the end of the gatherings, participants will be able to:

- **Engage** with the community of clerks and pastors in their area.

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- **Share** with one another any and all of the questions / concerns they bring to the event.
- **Explore** the *Handbook for Clerks of Session*, in relationship to the questions and concerns, developing shared responses.
- **Begin** the conversation about options and possibilities for the next review of session minutes (after an almost 3-year hiatus).
- **Express** how the Polity & Review Committee and the stated clerk may be helpful to clerks of session and pastors in the future.
- **Articulate** options for future gatherings of clerks and pastors (including the orientation of new clerks of session when they are elected by their sessions).

(Ordination Anniversaries)

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

10 years (2006)

The Rev. Kirk Baker (March 12, 2006 – Presbytery of Geneva)

15 years (2001)

The Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz (July 8, 2001 – Presbytery of West Jersey)

The Rev. Karl Warrington (January 29, 2001 – Elizabeth)

The Rev. Jane Winters (August 19, 2001 – Susquehanna Valley)

20 years (1996)

The Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummel (August 25, 1996 – Presbytery of Elizabeth)

25 years (1991)

The Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond (October 13, 1991 –

30 years (1986)

The Rev. Susan Otterbacher (September 14, 1986 – Presbytery of Great Rivers)

35 years (1981)

The Rev. Beverly Karr-Lyon (July 19, 1981 – Presbytery of Geneva)

The Rev. Jim Kerr (August 39, 1981– Presbytery of The Western Reserve)

40 years (1976)

The Rev. David Barnard (July 11, 1976– Presbytery of Geneva)

50 years (1966)

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

Over 50 years

The Rev. Sam Edwards (**51 years**, May 23, 1965 – Presbytery of Washington)

The Rev. Gilmore Creelman (**53 years**, June 18, 1963 – Presbytery of Mahoning)

The Rev. John Valk (**55 years**, October 15, 1961 – Presbytery of Newark)

The Rev. Fred Coffman (**56 years**, July 1, 1960 – Presbytery of Philadelphia)

The Rev. John Elder (**56 years**, May 20, 1960 – Presbytery of Northern New England)

The Rev. Herb Tennes (**57 years**, May 14, 1959)

The Rev. Zane Bolinger (**61 years**, June 6, 1955 – Presbytery of Blairsville)

The Rev. Dean Bemower (**64 years**, June 15, 1952 – Presbytery of Boston)

The Rev. Fred Magley (**68 years**, October 13, 1948 – Presbytery of Newark)

The Rev. Kenneth Hood (**76 years**, January 24, 1940 – Presbytery of Steuben-Elmira)

GENERAL COUNCIL

The Rev. Russ Roth, Chair, presented the report of the General Council.

Items for Presbytery's Action

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Fairville / Administrative Commission)

1. **Confirm** the previous election of the Administrative Commission for Fairville Presbyterian Church, Arcadia, NY (dissolved).

- The Rev. Tim Johnson, HR
- The Rev. Kirk Baker (Newark)
- Elder Paul Salisbury (Newark)
- The Rev. Nancy Farrell, HR
- Elder Bill Randolph (Sodus)

2. **Authorize** the Administrative Commission to conclude the sale of the church property on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva:

(Williamson)

3. **Receive** the Report of the Response Team for the First Presbyterian Church, Williamson, NY:

REPORT

Presbytery of Geneva Response Team

Williamson Presbyterian Church

January 31, 2016

Annual Congregational Meeting Held: Sunday, January 31st @ 11:30 at Williamson Presbyterian Church following worship service & pot-luck dinner.

Present: Response Team Members: Elder Paul Salisbury, Elder Lois Wafler
Rev Russ Roth, Session Moderator
Rev Fan Gasparri, Supply Pastor (1/2 time)
Williamson Church members & friends

Opening Prayer by Rev Russ Roth

Report:

Clerk of Session reported a quorum was present. Response Team members were introduced. Rev Roth proceeded to moderate the Annual Meeting.

After completing the agenda for the Annual Meeting, Rev Roth explained that the Session voted to recommend that the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Williamson be dismissed to the ECP – Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Preprinted ballots were handed out to voting members. Rev Roth instructed voters to circle “YES” if they wished to have the church be dismissed to the ECP - Evangelical Presbyterian Church. Tellers were appointed by the Moderator. **The voting tally was 25 in favor of being dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church and 0 voting against.**

Rev Roth explained that the Response Team would report the vote to General Council for their review. After review and approval by General Council, a vote for dismissal of the First Presbyterian Church of Williamson to the ECP – Evangelical Presbyterian Church will be

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placed on the agenda for the March meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva to be held at the Horseheads Presbyterian Church.

Closing Prayer by Rev Fran Gasparri

4. If the way be clear, and pending further necessary actions (including, but not limited to, appointment of an Administrative Commission, fulfilling the General Assembly requirement for property assessment, and confirmation of the requirements of the receiving denomination), **dismiss** the First Presbyterian Church of Williamson, NY to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church.

[**NOTE:** Approval of this motion does NOT effect the dismissal of the congregation, only lays the groundwork for the dismissal to be finalized expeditiously.]

The following amendment to the Main Motion was proposed:

Dismiss the First Presbyterian Church of Williamson, NY to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, with the understanding that all the remaining provisions of the Guidelines for Dismissal be followed.

The presbytery VOTED to **approve** the amendment to the Main Motion.

A motion was made to suspend the rules requiring a ballot vote on the main motion.

The presbytery VOTED, by hand vote, to **dismiss** the First Presbyterian Church of Williamson, NY to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church, with the understanding that all the remaining provisions of the Guidelines for Dismissal be followed.

The Rev. Deb Lind Schmitz led the presbytery in prayer.

5. The presbytery VOTED to **appoint** an Administrative Commission according to the Guidelines for Dismissal:

The Rev. Russ Roth
The Rev. Tim Johnson
Elder Paul Salisbury
Elder Lois Wafler
Moderator Dick Schied or his designee

According to the Guidelines for Dismissal, the Administrative Commission shall responsible for:

- 1). **Transferring** members of the congregation who wish to remain members of a PCUSA congregation.
- 2). **Referring** pastor(s) seeking transfer with the congregation to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church to the PCUSA Board of Pensions so that he/she/they may be fully apprised of any consequences of such action.
- 3). **Tending to any legal issues** involved in dismissal including dissolving the congregation's New York State religious corporation status.
- 4). **Taking custody** of all Session records and transferring them to the Presbytery of Geneva and subsequently to the Presbyterian Historical Society.

NOTE: It shall be the responsibility of the Congregation to pay for all such financial, legal, and/or other experts that the Congregation or the Presbytery engages to assist the Congregation or the Presbytery in carrying out the dismissal.

6. **Express gratitude** to the session and members of the Williamson Presbyterian Church and the Response Team for their

Items for Presbytery's Information: Actions Taken by General Council

The General Council VOTED to:

(Design Team)

1. **Endorse** the proposal of the Design Team, for presentation to the presbytery during the May 15, 2016 stated meeting.

Report of the Design Team

The Design Team, formed in November 2015 is tasked with turning the ideas and goals lifted up in the April 2015 Presbytery Retreat into some real programs activities, or presbytery goals.

Presently, the Design Team is working on three things: **clusters, resource networks, and communications**. These were part of the four values identified in the presbytery retreat: Relationships, Mission, Worship/Spiritual Life, and Transformation.

The Design Team offers the following proposal about geographic **clusters of churches**.

In response to the strong interest expressed in the April 2015 Retreat, the Design Team proposes a series of cluster meetings to promote communication and community within the presbytery. Our hope is that these clusters will meet at last four times in the coming year, the first time by the end of June. This is open to all interested parties of any age—whoever would like to come.

These are the proposed clusters (the Design Team has asked the *church in each cluster to host the first gathering):

- #1 – Seneca Falls*, West Fayette, Junius, Waterloo, Romulus
- #2 – Geneva*, Oaks Corners, Shortsville, Phelps, Seneca #9, Bellona
- #3 – Trumansburg*, Ovid, Lodi, Hector, Ithaca
- #4 – Watkins Glen*, Burdett, Moreland, Weston, Rock Stream, Dundee
- #5 – Bath*, Penn Yan, Pulteney, Hammondsport, Howard
- #6 – Elmira North*, Elmira Westminster, Elmira Lake St., Elmira First, Horseheads, Spencer
- #7 – Hornell*, Andover, Jasper, Almond, Arkport, Canisteo
- #8 – Painted Post*, Addison, Corning, Big Flats, (Chinese Koinonia Fellowship?)
- #9 – Naples*, Atlanta, Cohocton, Prattsburgh, Canandaigua
- #10 – Newark*, Palmyra Marion, E. Palmyra, Lyons
- #11 – Sodus*, Ontario Center, Huron, Red Creek, Wolcott

COM liaisons will be invited to participate in the gatherings of the particular churches to which they are assigned.

If approved by General Council, leaders of the host churches will be invited to gather at the March presbytery meeting, to brainstorm ideas for the initial cluster meetings.

Host churches will share a brief written report with the presbytery through the moderator, Dick Schied (moderator@presbyteryofgeneva.org).

The Design Team will develop a tool to evaluate the clusters by the end of the year.

(Camp Whitman)

2. **Approve** a request from the Camp Whitman Board for a \$5,000 grant from the Vittum Fund for the purpose of purchasing equipment to enhance the resources for the programs for campers.

3. **Receive** the following report from the Director of Camp Whitman.

Camp Whitman Director Lea Kone presented the report of Camp Whitman.

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Work on staffing the camp is continuing: seven of the fourteen positions have been secured. Female applicants far outnumber male applicants. Leadership staff is still the same. A young man from Corning will serve as Maintenance and Housekeeping Assistant. A new position is worship and community assistant, who will work with the chaplains. The Head Cook and Assistant Cook positions are still open. There is still an opening for an RN nurse for the camp. Registration stands at 33 Pine camper weeks registered, 13 graded camp weeks, and 5 Pioneer camp weeks. This is consistent with previous years. One group is interested in the Mission Trip Base camp week (a congregation from Ballston Spa).

Four chaplains of six have been confirmed. Only one (Leah Ntuala) is from Geneva. The others are from Genesee Valley. May 7, 2016 is scheduled for the Work Day at the camp. An Open House is scheduled for May 14, 2016. Memorial Day Family Camp Weekend will be held again this year. The annual fund-raiser will be held in the fall. The next Board meeting is April 21, 2016 at Victor Presbyterian Church. That meeting will include a brief presentation on a camp becoming a 501©3 corporation.

The Board is requesting \$5000 from the Vittum Fund for the purchase of equipment for the camp.

The Council VOTED to approve the request for the grant from the Vittum Fund.

(Triennium)

4. **Cover the cost** of a bus for the trip to the 2016 Youth Triennium, if necessary.

[NOTE: The cost to Geneva Presbytery for the bus to the Youth Triennium will be \$3,910. The cost will be shared with the Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse. Virginia Champlin noted that the Synod of the Northeast will be contributing \$100 per person.]

(Arkport)

5. **Reaffirm** permission granted to the Arkport Presbyterian Church in March 2015, regarding sale of the church's manse.

[NOTE: The Arkport church has received an offer for sale of the manse. The attorney has said that since permission was given in March 2015, the permission is not current. This action fulfills a legal requirement for a current action by the Council.]

(Building Use)

6. **Approve** a contract with Penn Clark for the use of a portion of the presbytery office building, at \$300 rent per month. The office is in possession with a signed contract by Penn Clark for the use of a portion of the Presbytery Office building. They will pay on the 15th of the month, and will take possession of that part of the building on March 10, 2016 for painting and other preparation.

CAMP WHITMAN

Lea Kone, Director of Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, presented the report.

Lea presented a slide show regarding the ministry of Camp Whitman, and plans for the 2016 season. Leah highlighted new programs made possible by the grant from the Vittum Fund: archery equipment, standing paddleboards, and equipment for a game called "Gaga."

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Co-chairs the Rev. Kirk Baker and Elder Cindy Weaver presented the report of the Personnel Committee, describing the work they hope to accomplish in the coming year.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Co-chairs the Rev. Ellen Donnan and the Rev. A.J. Tierson presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

Items for Presbytery Action

The action items were presented as a Consent Agenda, with the exception Item 11 (which was removed from the report by the Committee on Ministry).

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Opportunity was given to lift items from the Consent Agenda. The following items were lifted:

Item 2 (the commissioning service)

Item 6

The presbytery VOTED to approve the remaining items from the Consent Agenda:

(Romulus)

1. At the request of the session of the Romulus Presbyterian Church, Romulus, NY, **appoint** an Administrative Commission to support the work of the session of the Romulus Presbyterian Church, as the session deals with issues of the viability of the congregation, especially in light of the needs of the building.

The Rev. Russell Duncan (Lyons)

Elder Steven Beals, CRE (West Fayette)

A third member, whose name will be reported to the presbytery during the May

[NOTE #1: The additional name will be presented to the May 21, 2016 stated meeting.]

[NOTE #2: This action does not grant the Administrative Commission original jurisdiction over any part of the session's work. It allows the presbytery to "come alongside" the session during an important period of the congregation's life. Depending on decisions the session / congregation will make in the future, the session may request that the presbytery grant the Administrative Commission original jurisdiction over particular responsibilities, in order to facilitate those decisions.]

(Commissioning CREs on Pulpit Supply List to Officiate Communion) – Lifted for Discussion & Action

2. **Commission** the following Commissioned Ruling Elders on the Pulpit Supply List to officiate the Service of the Lord's Supper, at the invitation of the inviting session:

- Robert Sell (Horseheads)
- Bessie Tyrell (Canandaigua)
- James Mosher (Elmira, North)
- Joel Robinson (Elmira, North)
- Priscilla Andrews (Dundee)
- John Gingerich (Wolcott)
- Susan Frost (Lodi)
- Carol Merrill (Wolcott)

[NOTE: This commissioning is annual, and requires an annual report of such service.]

(Administrative Commission to Install)

3. **Appoint** the following Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Corning, NY on Sunday April 10, 2016 at 3:30 p.m.:

Moderator Elder Dick Schied, CRE (Hammondsport, serving Weston) or his designee

Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer)

Elder Ernest Danforth (Corning, First)

The Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummell

The Rev. Ellen Donnan (Dundee / Junius)

The Rev. Betsey Crimmins (Elmira, First)

4. **Authorize** the moderator or his designee to make changes to the Administrative Commission to Install, as necessary and appropriate.

5. **Dismiss** the Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz, upon completion of the Service of Installation.

(Administrative Commission to Ordain) – Lifted for Amendment (see below)

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6. **Appoint** the following Administrative Commission to Ordain Elder Cindy Weaver on Sunday April 24, 2016 at 3:30 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY:

Moderator Dick Shied, CRE (Hammondsport, serving Weston) or his designee
The Rev. Betsey Crimmins (Elmira, First)
The Rev. James Hicks, HR
The Rev. Kirianne Weaver Riehl (Ithaca, First)
Elder Elmer Ewing (Ithaca, First)
Elder Janet Lynch (Ovid Federated, clerk of the Church Board)

7. **Enroll** the following persons as Corresponding Members of the Administrative Commission to Ordain:

Sr. Barbara Moore (R.S.M / Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School)
The Rev. Gail Ricciuti (Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School / Presbytery of Genesee Valley)
The Rev. Stephanie Sauvé (Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School / Presbytery of Genesee Valley)
The Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao (Watkins Glen)

8. **Authorize** the moderator or his designee to make changes in the Administrative Commission to Ordain, as necessary and appropriate.

9. **Dismiss** the Administrative Commission to Ordain Cindy Weaver, upon completion of the Service of Ordination.

(Transfer of Membership / the Rev. Phil Courtney)

10. **Receive** the Rev. Phil Courtney HR as a member of this presbytery, by transfer from the Presbytery of Grand Canyon, effective March 15, 2016.

~~(Board of Pensions Benefits / Interim Pastors)~~

~~11. **Adopt** the policy that the negotiation of terms of call for Interim Pastors who serve within the Presbytery of Geneva include the option of participation in the Board of Pensions benefits program. Removed by the Committee on Ministry, in order to secure more information before making this or another motion.~~

Discussion of Items Lifted from the Consent Agenda

(Commissioning CREs on Pulpit Supply List to Officiate Communion) – Lifted for Discussion & Action

Following discussion, questions and responses, and debate, the presbytery VOTED to:

2. **Commission** the following Commissioned Ruling Elders on the Pulpit Supply List to officiate the Service of the Lord's Supper, at the invitation of the inviting session:

- Priscilla Andrews (Dundee)
- Susan Frost (Lodi)
- John Gingerich (Wolcott)
- Carol Merrill (Wolcott)
- James Mosher (Elmira, North)
- Joel Robinson (Elmira, North)
- Robert Sell (Horseheads)
- Bessie Tyrell (Canandaigua)

[**NOTE:** This commissioning is annual, and requires an annual report of such service.]

The Moderator led a Brief Service of Commissioning, ending with prayer for their service. The following persons were present and commissioned: Priscilla Andrews, Susan Frost, John Gingerich, Carol Merrill, and Robert Sell.

The following persons will be commissioned during the May 21, 2016 stated meeting of the presbytery:
James Mosher, Joel Robinson, and Bessie Tyrell

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(Retirement / the Rev. Jon Knight)

The presbytery VOTED to:

Approve the retirement of the Rev. Jon Knight (Horseheads), effective April 30, 2016. Members of the congregation spoke to the ministry of Jon Knight during his ten years of ministry with the Horseheads congregation, and celebrated his years of service as a minister.

A.J. Tierson led the presbytery in a prayer of thanksgiving and for the continuing ministry of Jon Knight.

Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery

Acting on behalf of the presbytery, the Committee VOTED to:

(Moderator Appointments / Hammondsport & Spencer)

1. **Appoint** the Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Hammondsport, NY.

2. **Appoint** the Rev. Jim Hicks as moderator of the session of Christ the King Fellowship, Spencer, NY.

Background and Rationale for the above decisions:

The Committee engaged in extensive conversation about these appointments. The conversation turned on perceived conflicts of interest, and the issue of boundaries. Both pastors expressed clarity about boundaries, and awareness of concerns. ***The Committee clearly understands that these actions do not establish a precedent, other than seriously to consider what is best for the congregation and the presbytery.***

For Presbytery's Information

The Committee VOTED to:

(Canisteo / Elder Donald Peek, CRE)

1. **Approve** the Commissioned Ruling Elder Covenant (part time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Canisteo, NY and Elder Donald Peek CRE, effective February 1, 2015 through January 30, 2017 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	9,000.00
Housing Allowance	8,590.00
Benefits Plan, PCUSA*	8,500.00
Study Leave	375.00
Travel Expense (voucher / IRS, \$.54/mile)	

Study Leave: 2 weeks, including two Sundays

Vacation: one month, including 4 Sundays

(Elmira, Westminster / the Rev. Jane Winters)

2. **Approve** the Temporary Supply Agreement (part-time) between the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY and the Rev. Jane Winters, effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 at the following terms:

Worship services	125.00 per service
Contract pastoral services	20.00 per hour
Meetings	20.00 per hour

Travel reimbursed at current IRS rate (\$.54 per mile)

(Shortsville / the Rev. A.J. Tierson)

3. **Approve** the Stated Supply Agreement (3/8 time) between the session of the Presbyterian Church of Shortsville, Shortsville, NY and the Rev. A.J. Tierson, effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 at the following terms:

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Cash Salary	11,663.00
Housing Allowance	6,280.00
Total Effective Salary	17,943.00

Benefits Plan, PCUSA*	6,549.00
Continuing Education	375.00
Travel expenses, at the current IRS rate (\$.54 per mile)	

Study Leave: 2 weeks, including two Sundays
Vacation: one month, including 4 Sundays

(Phelps / the Rev. A.J. Tierson)

4. **Approve** the terms of call for the service of the Rev. A.J. Tierson as Pastor (full-time / 35 hours) of the United Church of Phelps (Presbyterian/Methodist), Phelps, NY, effective January 1, 2016 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	30,000.00
Housing Allowance	18,000.00
Total Effective Salary	48,000.00

Benefits Plan, PCUSA	
Business/professional expenses	800.00
Continuing Education	1,000.00
Automobile expense at the current IRS rate (\$.54 per mile)	

Study Leave: 2 weeks, including two Sundays
Vacation: one month, including 4 Sundays

(East Palmyra / Joshua Baker)

5. **Approve** the Covenant for Leadership between the session of East Palmyra Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY and Joshua Baker (a member of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America), for provision of pastoral services, effective January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2016 at the following terms:

Worship service:	\$140.00 per service, plus mileage
Contract Pastoral Services:	\$35.00 per hour, plus mileage
Meetings (incl. session)	\$35.00 per hour, plus mileage

Travel expenses will be vouchered, at the current IRS rate (\$.54 per mile)

Vacation: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

(Ovid / Elder Cindy Weaver)

6. **Approve** the agreement between the Church Board of the Ovid Federated Church, Ovid, NY and Candidate Cindy Weaver as part-time supply, effective March 1, 2016 through August 31, 2016 at the following terms:

Lead worship services at \$150.00 per service, plus mileage
Provide contractual service at \$20.00 per hour, plus mileage
Conduct funeral services for OFC members at \$100.00 per service, plus mileage.
Attendance at other meetings not listed, \$20.00 per hour, plus mileage.

Mileage will be vouchered, at the current IRS mileage rate (\$.54 per mile).

Moderate church board meetings, with the advice and counsel of the Chair of the Board.

Conduct hospital visitations in Ithaca, and other emergency visitations as requested / available.

As requested, Cindy Weaver will have Sunday April 3, 2016 off.

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NOTE: Pending Cindy Weaver's ordination and service as Temporary Supply for Ovid Federated:

- Such ministry is acceptable as an ordainable call.
- The Board of Pensions considers such ministry as a validated ministry, so at the time of her ordination she may submit an application to the Board of Pensions.

7. **Authorize** Cindy Weaver to serve communion during the term of her service as part-time supply.

(Elmira, North / the Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond)

8. **Approve** the renewal of the Transitional Pastor Covenant between the session of North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY and the Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond, at the following terms:

Cash Salary*	40,000.00
Housing Allowance	20,000.00
Total Effective Salary	60,000.00

Social Security Offset	4,590.00
Benefits Plan, PCUSA	21,000.00
Study Leave	2,000.00
Study Leave Carry Over from 2015	880.00
Professional Expenses (mileage at current IRS rate)	2,500.00

Study Leave: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

Vacation: 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays

*\$20,000 will be distributed to a 403b account owned by the Transitional Pastor, that is lodged with Fidelity through the PCUSA; the amount deducted from the base salary may change at the discretion of the Transitional Pastor.

(Palmyra, Western / Pastor Nominating Committee Liaison)

9. **Appoint** Elder Paul Salisbury as liaison with the Pastor Nominating Committee of Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY.

(Laboring in the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley / the Rev. Jim Hicks, HR)

10. **Approve** the call of the Rev. Jim Hicks HR to serve within the bounds of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley as Interim Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Dryden, NY, effective April 1, 2016. **[NOTE:** The Rev. Hicks will retain his membership in the Presbytery of Geneva.]

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The presbytery entered into a Service of the Lord's Supper, led by members of the Horseheads congregation and their pastor, the Rev. Jon Knight.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

Following worship, the presbytery recessed to the Fellowship Hall for a lunch hosted by members of First Presbyterian Church, Horseheads, NY.

RECONVENING

Vice Moderator Joann Braun assumed the chair.

(Candidate Cynthia Weaver / Examination)

A.J. Tierson introduced candidate for ministry, Elder Cynthia Weaver.

Cindy presented her faith statement before the presbytery, whereupon the presbytery examined her for ordination.

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(Administrative Commission to Ordain)

The presbytery VOTED to:

1. **Arrest** the examination.
2. **Sustain** the examination and **approve** the ordination of Cynthia Weaver.

The Rev. Kirianne Riehl led the presbytery in prayer.

3. **Appoint** the following Administrative Commission to Ordain Elder Cindy Weaver on Sunday April 24, 2016 at 3:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY:

Moderator Dick Shied, CRE (Hammondsport, serving Weston) or his designee

The Rev. Betsey Crimmins (Elmira, First)

The Rev. James Hicks, HR

The Rev. Kirianne Weaver Riehl (Ithaca, First)

Elder Elmer Ewing (Ithaca, First)

The Rev. Janet Lynch (Ovid Federated, clerk of the Church Board, and Elder in the United Methodist Church)

4. **Enroll** the following persons as Corresponding Members of the Administrative Commission to Ordain:

Sr. Barbara Moore (R.S.M / Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School)

The Rev. Gail Ricciuti (Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School / Presbytery of Genesee Valley)

The Rev. Stephanie Sauvé (Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School / Presbytery of Genesee Valley)

The Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao (Watkins Glen)

5. **Authorize** the moderator or his designee to make changes in the Administrative Commission to Ordain, as necessary and appropriate.

6. **Dismiss** the Administrative Commission to Ordain Cindy Weaver, upon completion of the Service of Ordination.

PRESBYTERY WOMEN / SYNOD OF THE NE MISSION & MINISTRY COMM.

Virginia Champlin presented the report of the Presbytery Women of the Presbytery of Geneva.

She then presented a report of the work of the Synod of the Northeast Mission & Ministry Commission.

DESIGN TEAM REPORT

David Kilgore reported for the Design Team, urging participation in the proposed regional gatherings (see General Council Report). He shared how the idea for the gatherings came about.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The presbytery AFFIRMED the following *Resolution of Thanks*, prepared by David Kilgore.

Whereas the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads has shown the gift of hospitality in its generous welcome, in providing for our physical needs, in sharing with us a delicious meal, and in providing for our spiritual welfare in worship:

Therefore the Presbytery of Geneva expresses its thanks and appreciation.

CLOSING

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

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk Pro-Tem

**Next Meeting of the Presbytery:
Saturday May 21, 2016 ~ Huron Presbyterian Church, Huron, NY**