

Stated Meeting ~ Presbytery of Geneva
Tuesday May 19, 2015
First Presbyterian Church, Lyons, New York
The Rev. Russ Duncan, Pastor

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 September 19, 2015 at the First Presbyterian Church of Lyons, New York.

CONVENING

The Rev. David Kilgore, Presbytery 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 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
Austin, Amy Loving – Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca #9	Ex	P	P	P	
Baker, Kirk – Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)	P	A	P	P	
Barnard, David – Jasper, Jasper (Stated Supply)	A	A	A	A	Retired
Bhasker, Stanley – Bath, Bath	P	Ex	P	Ex	
Bond, Bryan – Pulteney, First (Stated Supply)	A	Moved			
Bond, Norma - Canisteo	A	Moved			
Campbell, Anne – Moreland, Moreland(Stated Supply)	Resigned	01-15			
Crimmins, Betsey – Elmira, First	P	P	P	P	
Donnan, Ellen – Dundee, First / Junius, Junius	P	Ex	P	P	
Duncan, Russell – Lyons, First	P	P	A	Ex	
Dygert, Steve – Almond, Union of Churches	A				
Elfond, Cheryl Ann – Elmira, North					
Farrell, Nancy – Palmyra, Western	Ex	P	P	Retired	
Griffis, Katherine - Hornell			P	P	
Grohman, Deb – Ontario, Ontario	P	P	A	Ex	
Heimberger, Gail – Sodus, First United	Ex	P	P	P	
Hicks, James – Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	P	P	P	P	
Karr-Lyon, Beverly – Watkins Glen, First	P	Ex	P	P	Retired
Kennedy, Glen – Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)	A	A	P	A	
Kerr, James – Canandaigua, United	P	A	P	Ex	
Knight, Jonathan – Horseheads, Horseheads	A	P	P	A	
Lester, Donald – Howard, Union*	A		A	A	
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – Geneva, First	P	P	P	Ex	
Loving Austin, Amy – Benton, Bellona Memorial Seneca, Seneca # 9	Ex	P	P	P	
Malles, Paul – Penn Yan, First	P	P	Ex	P	
Marr, Peter – Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*	A	A	A		
Moore, Banu – Corning, First	Ex	Moved			
Moore, James – Corning, First	Ex	Moved			
Ntuala, Leah – Seneca Falls, First	P	P	A	Ex	
O'Leary, Lucinda – Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*	A	A	A	P	
Peeples, Cheryl – Trumansburg, First Ulysses	P	P	P	P	
Price, Richard – Big Flats, Big Flats	A	A	A	A	
Prong, Lee – Williamson, Williamson (Interim)*	P	Interim	Dissolved		
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – Ithaca, Ithaca	P	P	P	P	
Roth, Russ – Huron, Huron	P	A	P	Ex	
Shevlin, Linda – Naples, Trinity				Ex	
Smith, Paul – Marion, Marion*	A	A	A	A	

Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps, United (Stated Supply)</i> <i>Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P	A	P	P	
Waters, Kathleen – <i>Elmira, North (Interim)</i>	A	Moved			
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo, First (Temporary Supply)*</i>	P	P	Ex	A	
Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i>	P	P	P	A	
Yao, James – <i>Lodi, Lodi</i> <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i>	P	P	P	P	
Yao, Nancy Meehan – <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i> <i>Hammondsport, First (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	P	P	
TOTAL PRESENT	20	17	21	16	
TOTAL EXCUSED	6	3	2	8	
TOTAL ABSENT	15	11	9	8	

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
Ashby, David (V) <i>Temporary Pastor, another denomination</i>	P	Ex	A	P	
Campbell, Anne (AL)		A	A	A	
Davis, Joelle (AL)	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Delhagen, Harold (V) <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	A	Ex	P	A	
Diffenbacher, Bryan (AL)	A	A	A	A	
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) <i>Pultneyville, Reformed</i>	Ex	P	P	P	
Haines, Todd (AL)	A	A	A	A	
Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A	P	A	P	
McCollister, Dan (AL)	A	A	A	A	
Roth, Marjorie (V) <i>Chaplain, Friendly Home, Rochester, NY</i>	P	A	P	Ex	
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	A	A	A	A	
Warrington, Karl (AL)	A	A	A	A	
TOTAL PRESENT	2	2	3	3	
TOTAL EXCUSED	2	3	1	2	
TOTAL ABSENT	6	6	8	7	

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 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
Bartel, Joanne	Ex	Ex	Ex	P	
Bembower, Dean	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Bollinger, Zane	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Coffman, Fred	P	P	P	Ex	
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Crego, Peter	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Edwards, Sam	Ex	P	Ex	Ex	
Elder, John	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Farrell, Nancy				Ex	
Flaherty, Scott	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Gerling, Jim	Ex	Ex	P	Ex	
Gould, John	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Hood, Kenneth	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Husted, Susan	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Johnson, Timothy	P	P	P	P	
Karr-Lyon, Beverly					
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Kilgore, David	P	P	P	P	
Magley, Fred	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Montgomery, Tom	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Murray, Virginia	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Newman, James	Ex	Ex	P	Ex	
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	

Outterson, Hugh	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Rochelle, Robert	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Teller, Gailey	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Tennies, Herb	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Tyrrell, Jamie– <i>Interim, Atlanta</i>	P	Ex	Ex	Ex	
Valk, John	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	
TOTAL PRESENT	4	4	5	3	

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 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
The Rev. Walter Stuber (<i>Wolcott</i>)	Ex	Ex	P	Ex	
The Rev. Cheryl Ann Elfond (<i>Elmira, North / Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley</i>)				P	
TOTAL PRESENT	1	1	2	1	
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	1	0	0	

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS (Ministers of another denomination or another presbytery who serve the Presbytery of Geneva in roles other than pastor of a particular church.)

Name	Jan 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (<i>Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	P	P	P	P	
TOTAL PRESENT	1	1	1	1	
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0	0	0	

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 27	Mar 14	May 19	Sept 19	Nov
Addison	A	A	Bonny E. Moore	A	
Almond	A	A	A	A	
Andover	A	A	A	A	
Arkport	A	Lorraine Glidden	Beth Haines-He	A	
Bath	Kathleen Swan	A	Kathleen Swan	A	
Bellona	A	A	Janice Newby	Janice Newby	
Big Flats	A	A	A	A	
Burdett	A	A	A	A	
Canandaigua	Ron Fulle	Ron Fulle	Ron Fulle	Ron Fulle	
Canisteo	A	A	A	A	
Cohocton	Michael Allen	A	A	A	
Corning	A	Kirk Allen	A	Kirk Allen	
Dundee	Ex	A	Ex	Ex	
East Palmyra	A	A	A	A	
Elmira, First	Rehanna Stanley	Rehanna Stanley	Rehanna Stanley	Gregg Lamb	
Elmira, Lake Street	A	A	A	A	
Elmira, North	Jeff Richards	Jeff Richards	Jeff Richards	Jeff Richards	
Elmira, Westminster	A	A	A	A	
Fairville	William Randolph	William Randolph	A	<i>Dissolved 09/19</i>	
Geneva, Presbyterian (1)	Edwin Frick	Edwin Frick	Chris Gerling	Edwin Frick	
Geneva, Presbyterian (2)	Bill Fox	Bill Fox	Edwin Frick	Bill Fox	
Hammondsport	James Walling	James Walling	James Walling	James Walling	
Hector	A	A	Susan Rochell	Susan Rochell	
Hedgesville	<i>Dissolved 01/27</i>				
Hornell	A	Irene Schu	Cheryl Green	A	
Horseheads	A	James Zearfoss	Jim Zearfoss	A	
Howard	A	A	A	A	
Huron	Linda Hayes	Lois Wafler	Lois Wafler	Lois Wafler	
Ithaca	Micah Beck	Micah Beck	A	A	
Jasper	A	A	A	A	
Junius	Kristy Ward	Kristi Ward	Ex	Kristi Ward	
Lodi	A	Steven Frost	Martha Cherwak	Steven Frost	

Lyons	Tracy Rankert	Tracy Rankert	Ex	Tracy Rankert	
Marion	A	Connie Franks	A	Connie Franks	
Moreland	A	A	Robert Bellman	Robert Bellman	
Naples	A	A	Joann Braun	A	
Newark	Paul Salisbury	A	Paul Salisbury	A	
Oaks Corners	A	Unreadable	Ernest H. Day, Sr.	A	
Ontario Center	A	A	A	A	
Ovid Federated	A	A	Roberta S. Morris	Roberta S. Morris	
Painted Post	A	A	A	A	
Palmyra	Philip Opdyke	Philip Opdyke	Terry Goodwin	Philip Opdyke	
Penn Yan	Sue Goodrich	Sue Goodrich	Sue Goodrich	Sue Goodrich	
Phelps	A	A	Nan Clark	Nan Clark	
Prattsburg	Diane Muck	A	A	A	
Pulteney	Harriette Potter	Harriette Potter	Harriet Potter	Harriette Potter	
Red Creek	A	A	A	A	
Rock Stream	A	A	A	A	
Romulus	A	A	A	A	
Seneca Falls	A	Susan Derr	A	A	
Seneca #9	A	A	A	A	
Shortsville	A	A	A	A	
Sodus	A	Jim Hopkins	A	Jim Hopkins	
Spencer	C. Thomas Bailey	C. Thomas Bailey	C. Thomas Bailey	C. Thomas Bailey	
Trumansburg	A	A	A	A	
Waterloo	Helen Wadsworth	Joyce M. Yost	Ex	Ruth Marshall	
Watkins Glen	A	A	A	Karen Rhodes	
West Fayette	A	A	A	A	
Weston	Vera E. Dykes	A	A	Vera Dykes	
Williamson	A	A	Josh Dorfner	Kevin Ginett	
Wolcott	A	Carol Merrell	Carol Merriell	Carol Merrell	
TOTAL PRESENT	22	26	27	28	
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	0	4	1	
TOTAL ABSENT	41	34	29	30	

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

(Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 27	Mar 14	May19	Sept 19	Nov
Alling, Kris	Trumansburg	General Council	P	A	P	P	
Andrews, Priscilla	Elmira, Lake	CRE	Ex	Retired			
Beals, Steven	West Fayette	CRE	P	P	Ex	Ex	
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	P	P	P	Ex	
Colvin, Donna	Pulteney	SNE Comm. 2015	P	P	P	P	
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A	A	A	P	
Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	A	P	A	A	
Peek, Donald	Canisteo	CRE	A	A	P	P	
Reynolds, Ellen	Geneva	General Council	P	P	P	A	
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE	A	A	A	P	
Salisbury, Paul	Newark	COM Co-Chair	P	P	P	A	
Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE	P	P	P	A	
TOTAL PRESENT			7	7	6	5	
TOTAL EXCUSED			1	0	1	2	
TOTAL ABSENT			5	3	4	4	

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency
The Rev. Allison Seed	Regional Representative, Board of Pensions
The Rev. Jim Renfrew	Synod Administrative Review Committee / Valley / First Presbyterian Church, Byron, NY
Elder Karen Pryor	Synod Administrative Review Committee / Third Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY
The Rev. Lynette Sparks	Synod Administrative Review Committee / Third Presbyterian Church, Pittsford, NY
Elder Hezekiah Simmon	Synod Administrative Review Committee / First Presbyterian Church, Pittsford, NY

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)

Includes CREs not serving churches

Lea Kone	Director, Camp Whitman
Fran Thayer	Moreland
Rosanna Bates	Pulteney
Susan Frost	Lodi
Les Bartley	Lyons
Cindy Weaver	Ithaca

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 27	Mar 14	May19	Sept 19	Nov
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	26	23	29	23	
Total Elder Commissioners Present	28	35	31	33	
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+2	+11	+2	+ 10	
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**	21	17	17	15	
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***	36	34	32	30	
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	19	15	28	22	
Total Registered Visitors	4	4	12	6	

* Does not include Corresponding Members, as they have only voice, not vote; includes Validated, At-large, and Honorably Retired

** Does not include Corresponding Members or Honorably Retired Ministers

*** Includes churches marked "excused"

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

(Corresponding Members – Voice / No Vote)

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

The Rev. Allison Seed (Regional Representative, Board of Pensions)

The Rev. Jim Renfrew (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Byron; Synod Administrative Review Committee)

The Rev. Lynnette Sparks (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Rochester, Third; Synod Administrative Review Committee)

Ruling Elder Karen Pryor (Presbytery of Genesee Valley / Third, Rochester / Synod Administrative Review Committee)

The Rev. Bronwen Boswell (Presbytery of Western New York, / Synod

(New Commissioners / Guests)

The presbytery welcomed the new elder commissioners and guests from the following congregations:

Williamson

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 May 19, 2015 stated meeting.

WELCOME BY HOST CHURCH / RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Tracy Rankert welcomed the presbytery to First Presbyterian Church, Lyons, NY. She noted that the lunch will include gluten-free options; and that gluten-free bread will be provided for communion.

The Moderator appointed the Rev. Kirianne Riehl to draft a Resolution of Thanks to the host congregation for presentation at the end of the meeting.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

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

Action Items

Upon his recommendation, the presbytery VOTED to:

(Privilege of Voice)

Grant privilege of voice to those non-commissioners who are making or participating in reports.

The stated clerk invited persons who are familiar with how the presbytery accomplishes the review of session records to connect with him at some point during the meeting to describe the process. He envisions some process to accomplish the readings by the end of spring.

“MISSION OF GOD”

Kirk Baker presented an announcement of the “Mission of God” program at Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY. He presented a flyer regarding a week-long program highlighting a variety of local, national, and world-wide movements to engage in witness through mission and ministry. The entire event will occur September 28 through October 4, 2015 at Park Presbyterian Church.

CELEBRATIONS

Last week, the Ovid Federated Church, Ovid, NY celebrated sixty years of the federation of the Presbyterian and United Methodist churches.

The Ontario Center Presbyterian Church is celebrating the 100th anniversary of their church building.

The Howard Presbyterian Church is celebrating their 200th anniversary as a congregation and the 100th anniversary of their building. The celebration will be held on September 27, 2015.

The Pulteney Presbyterian Church is celebrating their 200th anniversary as a congregation. The celebration will be held on September 27, 2015.

The Rev. Betsey Crimmins brought attention to a coaching process available to the Presbytery of Geneva through the Synod of the Northeast. She and the Rev. Janice Fitzgerald are part of the Synod Coaching Network. Cindy Weaver offered comments about the value of the coaching experience.

REPORT FROM THE BOARD OF PENSIONS

The Moderator welcomed the Rev. Allison Seed, Regional Representative of the Board of Pensions. The Rev. Seed noted the changes in the past several years, and of listening to church members, presbytery members, and pastors regarding those changes, especially as they relate to pastoral calls and compensation. She has noted the growing trend of calls being to part-time service, calls changed to part-time service, calls transformed into temporary relationships—in many cases to reduce the burden of dues to the Board of Pensions.

Out of that experience of change, the Board of Pensions has engaged broad opportunities for conversation and listening related to the future of pensions coverage throughout the Presbyterian Church. The Benefits Plan has not been inclusive of many pastors and almost all lay employees of PCUSA congregations and agencies. The Benefits Plan over 300 years has been working well for installed pastors, but not so well for pastors who are not in installed positions and for lay employees. Many employers have asked, “Can there be some flexibility, so that we can care for all of those who serve us?” “Can the Benefits Plan offer more flexibility in choices for serving our servants?” “Can there be more consultation between churches and individuals?” The Board has determined that it is important that there be a church wide program of medical care. The Board’s program is “self-insured.” The Medical Plan is only part of what is offered. The Board is continuing to develop Health and Wellness Programs.

The Board has the vision that the plan will serve more and serve better by providing a more effective menu of options for coverage. Coverage might be the same as installed pastors, or coverage might be “tailor-made” to the needs of the employers and the employees. She described briefly the possible options for installed pastors, non-installed pastors, and lay employees (of any denomination). In most cases the employer may have the option of passing on some of the costs to the employee.

Through all their work, the Board is striving to ease the burden of costs on churches and plan-members. In 2016, there will be no increase in dues. The Board is working hard to preserve *call neutrality*, so that calls will not be determined on the basis of family coverage or the resources of a spouse or partner.

The 300th anniversary of the Board of Pensions (PCUSA) will be celebrated during the 222nd General Assembly in Portland, OR next summer.

The Lyons church has made the Pastor's Study for conversations or consultations with Allison Seed.

CAMP WHITMAN

Leah Kone, Director of Camp Whitman presented a report of the Camp program for 2015. Camp was a wonderful summer (which was Leah's first time back at the camp in 17 years). We had over 20 staff during the summer, with six decades of ages represented. The staff represented multiple countries (Mexico and England) and multiple states, as well as staff from agencies who were experiencing camp leadership.

Camp was two campers shy of last year's attendance, which is exciting due to the late start in publicizing and registering. The graded camp program showed an increase. The Pine Camp population was smaller, mostly due to the aging of the population of attenders.

The waterfront director (John DeHority) realized that his service marked the 52nd year of his presence at the camp. Other staff members shared a similar experience of long-time connection with Camp Whitman.

The Camp conducted a survey of parents throughout the summer, which feedback will be of great help in planning for 2016.

The second week had very low registration, so a church from Corning participated in a program during that week, blended into the camp program—a new model for utilizing the camp in creative ways.

Challenges:

- The camp property is aging.

- The compressor in the freezer and a boat engine failed.

- Everyone worked together to solve all the problems that appeared.

- There were a number of emergency room trips, in part due to the aging of campers.

- Participation in the graded camp was not what we hoped, but is growing.

- The camp dispensed 1,700 medications through the summer.

The worship program has grown steadily over the past several years, and was a wonderful experience this year. The presence of volunteer chaplains continues to be a very valuable part of the ministry.

Fifteen counselors, staff, and volunteers were Alumni of Camp Whitman.

Next year, the programs will be a bit more generalized, with a particular overall theme for each week. The campfire and waterfront will continue to be utilized as central to the program. The policies and procedures for the camp are being updated so that the camp will be more attuned to the current time.

Plans are being considered for a "mission-based" experience for junior highs and senior highs, with work on mission projects in the presbytery.

Plans are being considered for how the camp can support Vacation Bible School programs.

Other creative plans are being discussed by the Board.

Tom Bailey offered comments from the perspective of the Camp Board. He served as chair of the three-person Operating Team. This year they worked hard at re-involving the Camp Board. The Board was involved in many of the activities related to the summer program. The Board and Operating Team have prepared a revision of the Camp By-Laws (including representatives of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley). The proposed by-laws will be reviewed by Mel Olver (engaged as a temporary presbytery attorney). The Board is firming up the insurance protection for the camp and its staff. The restructured Board will have nine members (five from Geneva and four from Genesee Valley). The Chair will come from Geneva; the Vice-Chair will come from Genesee Valley. Prior to March, the Board had not met for 2 ½ years, and had no involvement with the Camp. The Operating Team will go out of business at the end of 2015, and the Board will become the Operating Team. Two members of the current Operating Team are willing to be elected to the new Board, for continuity.

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

Gail Heimberger presented the report of the General Council.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

Upon recommendation of the General Council, the presbytery VOTED to:

(Temporary Standing Rules)

1. **Adopt** the revised *Temporary Standing Rules* as approved and presented by the General Council. **[See file on website titled 09-19-15 Presbytery Minutes Attachment A & B]**

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(Synod Administrative Review Committee)

1. **Provide** to the presbytery the full SARC report to the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission via the presbytery website; and to have members of the SARC present at the September presbytery meeting. The website posting will include the information that, should presbyters have questions, the contact persons will be Gail Heimberger (General Council Chair) and David Kilgore (Presbytery Moderator); and Tom Bailey (regarding questions related to Camp Whitman). The posting will note that the Report represents the work through March, 2015, with small changes made since that time. The Council received the official Synod response on July 27, 2015.

2. **Place on the General Council calendar** a visit with the Synod Administrative Review Committee, during the June 2016 General Council meeting, for evaluation and follow-up.

(Fairville Presbyterian Church, Arcadia)

3. **Appoint** a Response Team to meet with the session and congregation regarding the options and the processes for achieving their desired goals. The Response Team will include the liaison from Committee on Ministry (Paul Salisbury), the Stated Clerk Pro-tem (Val Fowler), and—if the way be clear—Kirk Baker (Park, Newark).

(Williamson)

4. **Appoint** a Response Team comprised of Paul Salisbury (liaison), Deb Grohman (Ontario Center), Nancy Ferrell (H.R.). The Stated Clerk Pro-Tem will attend, ex officio. Other possibilities are Lois Wafler and Carol Merrill. The next session meeting is August 6, 2015 at 6:30 p.m.

(Corning Chinese Community Church)

5. **Authorize**, if the way be clear enrolling the Rev. Ou Yang as a member of the Board of Pensions (PCUSA) effective September 1, 2015, dues to be paid to the presbytery by the CCCC.

The congregation has called a minister, effective September 1, 2015. In the past the pastor was authorized to participate in the Board of Pensions program.

(Connections with Smaller Congregations)

6. **Appoint** three persons to work together on the presbytery's ministry to very small churches, and devise a plan for developing and maintaining contact with those churches. The three persons will be: David Kilgore, Donna Colvin, Tim Johnson, Tom Bailey, Ellen Reynolds. Val Fowler will serve ex-officio. David Kilgore will be the "convener."

(Presbytery Office / Cleaning Service)

7. **Re-hire** the cleaning service through December 31, 2015, and **authorize** Jim Yao to make the contact regarding the service (the previous contract was \$100/week)

Rationale:

The presbytery office hasn't had a cleaning person since June, and Karen Jensen has not been able to recruit someone to do so. She offered a recommendation to return to the cleaning service that was used some years ago.

(Administrative Assistant / Vacation)

8. Karen Jensen reported that she and her husband will be leaving from the September 19, 2015 meeting for three days. Further, she and her husband will be sharing a time share with Karen's sister which will mean that she will not be present in November. Kris Alling will work with Karen in September, in preparation for substituting in November. Painted Post will likely be the location for the November 10, 2015 presbytery meeting. Karen will be on vacation August 13, returning on September 1, 2015.

(Camp Whitman / By Laws Revision)

9. **Receive** the proposed revisions of the Camp Whitman By-Laws for first reading, anticipating a vote during the September meeting of the General Council. At a later time the Council will recommend that the presbytery include the document in the Presbytery Standing Rules.

History/Rationale

At the beginning of this year, the Camp Whitman Advisory Board had not met for two years. Representatives from the presbyteries of Genesee Valley and Geneva have worked on new by-laws and the development of a new Camp Whitman Board.

The recommendation was made to adopt the recommendations and make them a part of the Presbytery Standing Rules. Upon approval, the General Council will serve as Camp Operator, supervising the Board of Camp Whitman, who will act on behalf of the Camp Operator. The proposal recommends a Board of nine persons: 5 from the Presbytery of Geneva and 4 from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. The Chair would come from Geneva; the Vice-Chair would be from Genesee Valley. Both of these recommendations reflect the Presbytery of Geneva's ownership of Camp Whitman.

(Temporarily Restricted Funds)

10. **Place** the Temporarily Restricted Funds in a new account the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation New Covenant Funds, invested in the Income Fund.

Rationale

As we recover "borrowed" restricted funds (which could eventually total over \$230,000), we think it best to put them in a new account invested with a lower-risk fund that will earn more than a savings account but still be relatively safe.

(2014 Audit)

11. **Accept** the results of the 2014 financial audit of our presbytery and approve signing the Representation Letter to our auditors, Heveron and Company. **[[See file on website titled 09-19-15 Presbytery Minutes Attachment C & D]**

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Rationale

The committee has reviewed the documents and feels they fairly represent the financial position of the presbytery. Once the Representation Letter is signed and returned to Heveron and Company, they will issue the official final audit documents.

(Financial Policies)

12. **Accept** the draft *Presbytery of Geneva Financial Policies*, and present them to the presbytery for first reading during the September meeting of the presbytery. **[[See file on website titled 09-19-15 Presbytery Minutes Attachment C & D]**

(Presbytery Office)

13. **Communicate** to the Budget & Finance Committee that the General Council will proceed on the assumption that we will be using this building for the next year.

The October Council meeting will include a model of reflecting on the pros/cons of the decision to keep the building and the pros/cons of not keeping the building.

(Approval of Congregational Projects)

14. **Approve** a roof repair project for the Bellona Memorial Presbyterian Church, Benton, NY.

15. **Approve** a furnace replacement project for the First Presbyterian Church, Arkport, NY.

(Arkport)

16. **Approve** transmitting to the General Assembly a letter from the session of First Presbyterian Church, Arkport, NY, protesting the action taken by the 221st General Assembly approving same-sex marriage.

(Temporary Presbytery Leader)

17. **Approve** a recommendation from the presbytery Personnel Committee that the Personnel Committee be authorized to prepare a job description for a Temporary Presbytery Leader (5-6 months), to search for a person to fill that position.

18. **Appoint**, if the way be clear, the following committee to search for a Temporary Presbytery Leader: the Rev. Jim Kerr, the Rev. Betsey Crimmins, Elder Beth Haines-He, Elder Bob Seem, Elder Tom Bailey.

(West Virginia Mission Trip)

19. **Approve** release of \$600.00 of the West Virginia Reserve Fund for the West Virginia Mission Trip this fall.

(Smaller Churches)

20. **Appoint** the following persons to study issues common to smaller churches, in an effort to provide more effective support for their ministries: the Rev. Tim Johnson, Elder Ellen Reynolds, the Rev. Ellen Donnan, Elder Donna Colvin, and the Rev. David Kilgore (convener).

SYNOD ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE (SARC)

Gail Heimberger welcomed the members of the Synod Administrative Review Committee who were present:

The Rev. Jim Renfrew
The Rev. Lynette Sparks (Chair of the SARC)
Elder Karen Pryor
Elder Hezekiah (Heze) Simmons

Those not present were the Rev Dick McCusik, the Rev Bronwen Boswell, and Elder Nancy Sprenkle.

Lynette Sparks shared the history and the charge of the Synod Administrative Review Committee, which began its work in the summer of 2014. Dozens and dozens of interviews were held, multiple correspondence has been received and reviewed; and the Committee has attended several General Council meetings (as well as being present at several presbytery meetings).

The Synod has received and approved the Report of the SARC, and requested its presentation to the presbytery.

The recommendations made are not designed as “quick fixes,” but as a means to move toward greater health and vitality in conducting the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ.

The recommendations are made around certain concerns:

- Community Building (including dreaming and grieving / connecting more deeply with sessions and congregations)
- Governance practices (openness, transparency, communications)
- Finances and Financial Policies (transparency and clarity)
- The Mission of the presbytery (continue to embrace the work of equipping congregations)
- Camp Whitman (the work that has been done and continues to be done regarding organization and planning)

The SARC prepared a separate report which will be presented and considered during the November stated meeting of the presbytery (Painted Post). The report deals with the concerns around the death of Graham Andrus at Camp Whitman a few years ago.

The SARC has also prepared recommendations to the Synod of the Northeast.

Lynette offered the SARC’s appreciation to the presbytery and its leaders for the welcome they have received, for the willingness to work through the difficult issues with grace and honesty, and for the opportunity for SARC members to have “done perhaps the most significant work in their ministry.”

There is, Lynette affirmed that there is fertile ground for healthy change and vitality and there is abundant hope.

The Synod has recommended that the SARC remain in force until the summer of 2016, to provide for support and evaluation of the work of the Presbytery of Geneva.

Moderator Kilgore noted that following lunch, there will be opportunity to converse around small tables in response to the report of the SARC.

PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

Tom Bailey (co-chair) presented the report of the Personnel Committee.

(Transitional Leader Search Committee)

Tom shared the history/rationale for the following motion. The Council approved a recommendation to hire a Temporary Presbytery Leader (part-time or full-time) to serve until a Transitional Leader is elected. Part of the job description will be to oversee the functioning of the presbytery office. Additionally, the person would guide the presbytery in implementing the Temporary Standing Rules, and in implementing the recommendations of the SARC report. Tom expressed both appreciation and celebration of the gifts that the Rev. Jim Yao has brought to the presbytery over the past year.

The Personnel Committee is working on a job description for the Temporary Leader, and a job description for the Transitional Leader.

Upon motion from the Personnel Committee, and after the call for nominations from the floor, the Presbytery VOTED to appoint the following persons as a Temporary Leader Search Committee:

The Rev. Jim Kerr (Candandaigua)
The Rev. Betsey Crimmins (Elmira, First)
Elder Beth Haines-He (Arkport)
Elder Bob Siem (Seneca Falls)

WORSHIP

The worship service was a

LUNCH

Following the prayer for the meal, offered by _____ presbytery recessed for lunch, provided by the First Presbyterian Church, Lyons.

Remaining at the lunch tables, the presbytery engaged in time of response to the report of the Synod Administrative Review Committee.

Following the conversation, the presbytery returned to the sanctuary for the remainder of the meeting.

RECONVENING

Moderator Elect Dick Schied led the presbytery in prayer.

SYNOD MINISTRY & MISSION COMMISSION

Virginia Champlin reported concerning the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission.

On June 26-27, 2015 the Synod Mission & Ministry Commission met. Seventeen of twenty-two presbyteries were represented. Many presbyteries are re-energizing their ministries to higher education. The Commission approved increasing the hours of the Synod Stated Clerk to a maximum of 30 hours/week. The Synod assumed original jurisdiction of the Presbytery of Newark, through an Administrative Commission. The language of the Standing Rules was changed to reflect the decision of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission. The Synod approved the report of the Synod Administrative Review Committee for the Presbytery of Geneva.

The next meeting of the Mission & Ministry Commission will be September 24/25, 2015.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

The Rev. Paul Malles presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The Committee VOTED to recommend that the presbytery:

(Watkins Glen/ the Rev. Beverly Carr-Lyon)

1. **Approve** the request of the Rev. Beverly Karr-Lyon and the First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, effective September 30, 2015. The presbytery celebrated the ministry of the Rev. Beverly Karr-Lyon in Watkins Glen.

(Honorably Retired Status)

2. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Beverly Karr-Lyon, effective September 30, 2015.

Moderator David Kilgore led the presbytery in a brief worship time, honoring the Rev. Karr-Lyon's retirement.

3. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. David Barnard, effective August 31, 2015.

(The Rev. Herb Tennes / Pastor Emeritus)

4. **Approve** the request of the sessions of the Bellona Memorial and Seneca #9 churches to grant the status of Pastor Emeritus to the Rev. Herb Tennes, effective September 22, 2015.

(Fairville / Dissolution)

5. **Approve** the dissolution of the Fairville Presbyterian Church, Arcadia, NY effective September 22, 2015, at the request of the session and the congregation. [See supporting documents provided with the presbytery meeting docket.]

- The Fairville session indicated to the moderator, the Rev. Tim Johnson, that the congregation intended to leave their building, dissolve as a congregation, and worship at the local fire hall.
- Subsequent meetings were held with the session (Paul Salisbury), and with the Temporary Supply (Joshua Baker).
- A subsequent meeting with the session was held with Paul Salisbury and stated clerk pro-tem Val Fowler. During this meeting several options were presented, beyond simply walking away.
- In a follow up letter, the session made it clear that they and the congregation were intent on dissolving and leaving the property in the presbytery's hands.
- Congregation insurance continued through mid-September; the presbytery assumed insurance on the building at that time.
- The financial assets of the congregation have been duly transferred to the presbytery; determination is being made as to any specific restrictions on all or part of those funds. The amount is @ \$17,000.
- Plans are being made for assessment of the building and exploring options for its use (hopefully, sale).
- Joshua Baker will continue to serve the East Palmyra congregation as Temporary Supply.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF PRESBYTERY

Acting on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva, the Committee VOTED to:

(Moderator Appointments)

1. **Appoint** the Rev. Tim Johnson, HR as moderator of the Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY, effective June 2, 2015.

2. **Appoint** the Rev. Jim Hicks at moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY, effective October 1, 2015.

3. **Appoint** Elder Paul Salisbury as moderator of session of the East Palmyra Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY effective September 2, 2015.

ACTIONS TO BE REPORTED TO PRESBYTERY AS INFORMATION

The Committee VOTED to:

(Committee on Ministry Minutes)

1. **Not to publish** the full minutes of Committee on Ministry meetings on the website. The public report of the Committee will be the report made to the presbytery during presbytery meetings.

Rationale:

The Committee unanimously agrees that the confidentiality of the Committee's work should be preserved.

The Committee will report to the presbytery through the Presbytery Report of the COM presented during the meetings of the presbytery: Items for Presbytery Action, Actions Taken on Behalf of the Presbytery, and Information Items.

(Williamson / the Rev. Francis "Fran" Gasparri)

2. **Approve**, if the way be clear, the Stated Supply relationship (1/2 time) between the session of the Williamson Presbyterian Church, Williamson, NY and the Rev. Francis Gasparri, effective [insert date] at the following terms of call:

Williamson Presbyterian Church, Williamson, NY. The session has said that the church will compensate the Rev. Gasparri at \$5,000 above the minimum terms for such a call.

3. **Appoint** a Response Team to meet with the session of the First Presbyterian Church, Williamson, NY: Paul Salisbury (COM liaison), Russ Roth (moderator of session), Tim Johnson, and the stated clerk (staff support)

(Newark, Park / The Rev. Kirk Baker)

4. **Approve** the following change in the terms of call between the session of Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY and the Rev. Kirk Baker, Transitional Minister:

Cash Salary	34,739.00
Housing (35%)	18,076.00
Total Effective Salary	53,445.00

Pension/Medical (PCUSA)	21,302.00
SECA Offset	4,062.00
MSA (50% deductible)	525.00
Study Leave	1,000.00
Travel (IRS rate)	0.56/mile

Study Leave Time	14 days / 2 Sundays
Vacation Time	31 days / 4 Sundays

5. **Request** the congregation to prepare a Mission Statement. When the Committee on Ministry approves the Mission Statement, the congregation would be authorized to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

(Palmyra, Western / the Rev. Robin Lostetter)

6. **Approve** the Transitional Pastor Contract (full-time) between the session of Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY and the Rev. Robin Lostetter, effective October 1, 2015 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	20,000.00
Housing Allowance	30,000.00
Total Effective Salary	50,000.00

Automobile expense	5,500.00
Business/professional expense	3,515.00
SECA supplement	2,000.00
Continuing Education	5,000.00
Board of Pensions dues	17,896.00

Vacation: 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
Continuing Education: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

Reasonable moving expenses

7. **Grant** permission to the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, at the time deemed appropriate to the session.

(The Rev. Joanne Bartel / Ovid Federated)

8. **Approve** the Supply Pastor Contract (part-time) between the session of the Ovid Federated Church, Ovid, NY and the Rev. Joanne Bartel effective September 1, 2015 through February 29, 2016 at the following terms:

Worship Service -- \$75.00 per service, plus mileage
Contractual service -- \$20.00 per hour, plus mileage
Funeral Services for church members -- \$100.00, plus mileage
Other meetings not listed -- \$20.00 per hour, plus mileage
One Sunday off per quarter, as requested

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.
Aid in the transition to an installed pastor.

(Search for Interim Pastors)

9. **Encourage** sessions who are seeking Interim Pastors to use the Church Leadership Connection process for seeking candidates. Through liaisons, the Committee on Ministry will provide support to the interim search process.

(Williamson / Response Team)

(Jasper / the Rev. David Barnard)

10. **Authorize** continuation of the Stated Supply Contract (1/4 time) between the session of Jasper Presbyterian Church, Jasper, NY and the Rev. David Barnard.

11. **Affirm** to the Board of Pensions that this exception is consistent with the ministry and mission of the Presbytery of Geneva, and **encourage** the Board of Pensions to approve it.

(Actions Related to Pastoral Searches)

12. **Approve** the Ministry Information Form for First Presbyterian Church, Arkport, NY; and **grant** permission to the to the Pastor Nominating Committee to begin the search for an installed pastor.

13. **Approve** the Mission Study report for Canisteo Presbyterian Church, Canisteo, NY; **encourage** the development of a Ministry Information Form; and **authorize** the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

14. **Grant** permission for the Ovid Federated Church, Ovid, NY to shift the Interim Pastor Nominating Committee to a Pastor Nominating Committee, upon completion of a Supply Pastor Contract.

(Pulpit Supply List)

15. **Amend** the Pulpit Supply Policy to state that persons who have completed the Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School training and other authorized training for Commissioned Ruling Elders will be eligible to be placed on the Pulpit Supply list.

16. **Place** the name of Paul Yoder (CRCDS graduate) on the Pulpit Supply List.

BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE

Jim Yao presented the report of the Budget & Finance Committee.

(2014 Audit Report)

The auditing went very well, and there were no major problems discovered. **[See file on website titled 09-19-15 Presbytery Minutes Attachment A & B]**

(Financial Policies Document)

The presbytery received the proposed *Financial Policies* document, for first reading. Action is contemplated for the November stated meeting. **[[See file on website titled 09-19-15 Presbytery Minutes Attachment C & D]**

(Financial Report, Year-to-Date)

The 2015 report (through July) is presented consistently with the desire to be more transparent in reporting. The Committee has developed a one-page summary that is easier to read and digest. The presbytery is doing well, and in fact a bit better than 2014, at this date. **[[See file on website titled 09-19-15 Presbytery Minutes Attachment C & D]**

(2016 Budget / Revised Schedule)

The numbers for Camp Whitman will be available within the next week. The first-read Budget will be presented in November, and the approval will occur in January. Most likely, the Committee will recommend not increasing the Per-Capita amount. Next year, we will have \$16,000 less in income in 2016.

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Sue Goodrich presented the report on behalf of Leah Ntuala, Chair:

1 Corinthians 12:4-7 informs us, "Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good." We are called into the church of Jesus Christ by baptism, and marked as Christ's own by the Holy Spirit. This is our common calling; to be disciples and servants of our Lord. Within the community of the church, some people are called to particular service.

In an effort to make our Presbytery stronger we need all the gifts of the people in the Presbytery, which includes Teaching Elders, Ruling Elders and parishioners of over 60 churches in the Presbytery of Geneva. We are asking you to provide names of people to serve on the presbytery committees. We currently have openings on Polity and Review (Clerk of Sessions or people who know their Book of Order would be wonderful!); Committee on Ministry; Budget and Finance; Committee on Properties; Grant Missions Team; Synod YAD and Male Clergy Commissioner for this year and Female Clergy and Female Ruling Elder for next year; Committee on Preparation for Ministry; Female Elders to serve as Vice Moderator of the presbytery and Vice Moderator on Council.

If you wish to serve on a Presbytery Committee please seek out: Rev. Leah Ntuala, Rev. Jon Knight, Elder Phoebe Baker, Elder Larry Bates, Rev. Dr. Cynthia Huling Hummel, Rev. Betsey Crimmins, Rev. Cheryl Peeples, Rev. Jim Gerling or Elder Sue Goodrich

REPORT FROM PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Carol Limner presented the report. The annual Gathering of Presbyterian Women was held at Camp Whitman last week. Synod Presbyterian Women will be held October 23-24, 2015 at Stony Point Conference Center. The Presbyterian Women of Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NJ will be hosting luncheon for the women of the presbytery.

ELECTION OF STATED CLERK

The Rev. Nancy Meehan Yao presented the report of the Stated Clerk Search Committee. She described the Committee's process, and placed in nomination the name of the Rev. Val Fowler as Stated Clerk of the presbytery.

The presbytery VOTED to elect the Rev. Val Fowler as Stated Clerk for a term of three years.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The presbytery AFFIRMED the following *Resolution of Thanks*, prepared by _____

Whereas:

- ❖ *Tracy and this entire congregational team have offered us their best hospitality in the midst of their own pastoral need; and*
- ❖ *Returning to this sanctuary has particular meaning for a healing presbytery; and*
- ❖ *No technology or sound system is completely functional at all times; and*
- ❖ *Our lunch held an admirable balance of nutrition and deliciousness; and*
- ❖ *The pews of the sanctuary have remained comfortable these many hours; and*
- ❖ *A resounding outburst of biblical proportions followed the report of our excellent Synod Administrative Review Committee and should herewith be repeated with great pleasure; and the election of our equally excellent stated clerk;*

Be it resolved that the First Presbyterian Church of Lyons, NY be officially and heartily thanked.

CLOSING

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

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk Pro-Tem

As you go...

- **What have you learned about the Presbytery today?**
- **Who have you gotten to know better today?**
- **What blessings have you shared today?**

Future Presbytery Dates

Tuesday November 10 – Painted Post

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A – *TEMPORARY STANDING RULES* (Draft, First Reading)
ATTACHMENT B – 2014 AUDIT REPORT
ATTACHMENT C – *PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA FINANCIAL POLICIES* (Draft, First Reading)
ATTACHMENT D – FINANCIAL REPORTS, August 31, 2015

NOTE: Attachments can be found on website under documents titled: 09-19-2015 Presbytery Minutes Attachments A & B and 09-19-15 Presbytery Minutes Attachments C & D.