

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA  
STATED MEETING**

**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GENEVA, NY  
NOVEMBER 18, 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 November 18, 2017 at the Geneva Presbyterian Church, Geneva, 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	Ex	P
Baker, Kirk – <i>Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)</i>	A	P	Ex	P	P
Bhasker, Stanley – <i>Bath, Bath</i>	Ex	Ex	P	Ex	A
Crimmins, Betsey – <i>Elmira, First</i>	Ex	P	P	P	P
Delhagen, Kyle – <i>Palmyra, Western (RCA, Formula of Agreement)</i>	A	P	A	P	P
Donnan, Ellen – <i>Dundee, First / Junius, Junius</i>	P	Ex	P	P	P
Frigard, Beth – <i>Big Flats (Interim)</i>	A	A	P	A	A
Griffis, Katherine – <i>Hornell, United</i>	P	P	P	P	P
Grohman, Deb – <i>Ontario, Ontario</i>	Ex	P	Ex	P	Ex
Heimberger, Gail – <i>Sodus, First United</i>	P	P	Ex	P	P
Incze, Bruce Imre – <i>Arkport</i>		P	P	P	P
Kennedy, Glen – <i>Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)</i>	P	A	Ex	Ex	Ex
Kerr, James – <i>Canandaigua, United</i>	A	P	A	P	Ex
Lester, Donald – <i>Howard, Union*</i>	A	A	A	A	A
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – <i>Geneva, First</i>	P	P	P	P	P
McDonald, John – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	A	P	P	P	P
Malles, Paul – <i>Penn Yan, First</i>	P	P	Ex	Ex	P
Marr, Peter – <i>Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*</i>	A	A	A	A	A
Mellgard, Rob – <i>Ovid Federated</i>	P	P	P	P	P
Milne, Caraa Sutton – <i>Watkins Glen</i>				P	P
Ntuala, Leah – <i>Seneca Falls, First</i>	A	P	Ex	P	P
O'Leary, Lucinda – <i>Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*</i>	Ex	A	P	P	P
Peeples, Cheryl – <i>Trumansburg, First Ulysses</i>	P	P	P	P	Ex
Preisendanz, David – <i>Elmira, North</i>	A	P	P	P	A
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	P	P	A	P	P
Roth, Russ – <i>Huron, Huron</i>	Ex	P	P	Ex	Transfer
Slater, Sabrina – <i>Spencer, Christ the King</i>					P
Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps, United Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	Ex	P	P
Ugoretz, Jeffrey – <i>Corning, First</i>	A	Ex	P	Ex	A
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo, First (Temporary Supply)*</i>	P	P	P	P	A
Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i>	A	P	P	P	A
Yao, James – <i>Lodi, Lodi Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor)</i>	Ex	P	P	Transfer	
Yao, Nancy Meehan – <i>Hector, Hector (Co-Pastor) Hammondsport, First (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	Transfer		
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>TOTAL EXCUSED</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>TOTAL ABSENT</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>8</b>

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**MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE**

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Ashby, David (V) <i>Interim Pastor, Honeoye Falls, NY</i>	P	P	P	Ex	P
Campbell, Anne (AL)	A	A	A	A	A
Delhagen, Harold (V) <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	A	Ex	Ex	Ex	A
Duncan, Russell (V) <i>United Church of Salem, Salem, VT (UCC)</i>	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) <i>Robinson Memorial PC, Syracuse, NY</i>	P	P	P	P	P
Frank, Aaron (AL)					A
Haines, Todd (AL)	A	A	A	A	A
Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A	Ex	P	Ex	Ex
McCullister, Dan (AL)	A	A	A	A	A
Roth, Marjorie (V) <i>Chaplain, Friendly Home, Rochester, NY</i>	A	A	Ex	Ex	<b>Transfer</b>
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Warrington, Karl (AL)	A	A	A	A	A
Weaver, Cindy (AL)	P	P	Ex	Ex	P
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL EXCUSED</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>TOTAL ABSENT</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>

**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	Ex	Ex
Bartel, Joanne	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Coffman, Fred	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Courtney, Philip	Ex	P	Ex	Ex	Ex
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Crego, Peter	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Edwards, Sam	Ex	P	Ex	Ex	P
Elder, John	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Farrell, Nancy	Ex	Ex	Ex	P	P
Flaherty, Scott	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Gerling, Jim	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	P
Gould, John	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Hicks, James	Ex	Ex	Ex	P	Ex
Hood, Kenneth	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Husted, Susan	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Johnson, Timothy	P	P	P	P	P
Karr-Lyon, Beverly	P	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Kilgore, David	P	P	P	P	P
Knight, Jonathan	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Magley, Fred	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Montgomery, Tom	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Murray, Virginia	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Newman, James	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Price, Richard	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Rochelle, Robert	Ex	P	Ex	Ex	Ex
Teller, Gailey	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex

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Tennies, Herb	P	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
Tyrrell, Jamie– <i>Interim, Atlanta / Presbytery Treasurer, pro-tem</i>	Ex	Ex	Ex	P	P
Valk, John	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex	Ex
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>

**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	P	P
Elfond, the Rev. Cheryl Ann ( <i>Elmira, North / Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley</i> )	A	A	A	Ex	A
Lostetter, the Rev. Robin ( <i>Palmyra, Western / Presbytery of Pittsburgh</i> )	A	A	Ex	Ex	A
Schwartz, the Rev. Barbara ( <i>Hector &amp; Lodi / Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley</i> )				Ex	P
Shevlin, the Rev. Linda ( <i>Naples, Trinity Federated / United Methodist Church</i> )	A	A			
Slater, Sabrina ( <i>Spencer / Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church</i> )				P	
Stuber, the Rev. Walter ( <i>Wolcott / Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i> )	A	P	A	Ex	A
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TOTAL EXCUSED</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>TOTAL ABSENT</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>

**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	P	P
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXCUSED</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	

**COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES**

Church Name	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
Addison, Addison	A	A	A	A	A
Almond Union	A	P	A	A	A
Andover, First	A	A	A	A	A
Arkport, First	A	P		P	Duffy Eisenheimer
Atlanta, Atlanta	A	P	A	A	A
Bath, First	P	A		P	Barbara Scudder
Benton, Bellona	P	A	A	P	A
Big Flats, First	A	A		A	A
Burdett, Burdett	A	A	A	A	A
Canandaigua, United	A	A	A	P	Mark Slomski
Canistota, Canistota	P	P	A	P	Barbara Stephens
Cohocton, First	A	A	A	P	A
Corning, First	A	A	A	A	A
Dundee, First	P	A		P	Ex
Elmira, First	P	P	A	P	Patricia Kapusta
Elmira, Lake Street	A	A		A	A
Elmira, North	P	P		P	Jeff Richards
Elmira, Westminster	A	A	A	A	A
Fayette, W. Fayette	A	A	A	A	A

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Geneva (1)	P	P		P	Ed Frick	
Geneva (2)	P	P		A	Chris Gerling	
Hammondsport, First	A	A	A	A		
Hector, First	A	A	A	A	Susan Rochell	
Hornell, United	P	P		Ex	Lisa Sanford	
Horseheads, First	P	A	A	P	James J. Zearfoss	
Howard, Howard Union	A	A	A	A		A
Huron, Huron	P	P		P	Linda Hayes	
Ithaca, First	A	A		A		A
Jasper, Jasper	A	A	A	A		A
Junius, Junius	Ex	P	A	Ex	Kristi Ward	
Lodi, Lodi	P	P		P	Amanda McGonigal	
Lyons, First	A	P	A	P		A
Marion, United	A	A		A	Connie Franks	
Moreland, Moreland	A	A	A	A		A
Naples, Trinity Fed.	P	P		P	Don Braun	
Newark, Park	P	P	A	P	Paul Salisbury	
Oaks Corners	A	A	A	A		A
Ontario, First	A	A	A	A		A
Ovid Federated	P	P		P	Roberta Morris	
Painted Post, United	A	A	A			A
Palmyra, East Palmyra	A	A	A	A		A
Palmyra, Western	A	P		P	Philip Opdyke	
Penn Yan, First	A	P	Ex	P	Sue Goodrich	
Phelps, United	P	A		P	Nan Clark	
Prattsburg, First	A	A	A	A		A
Pulteney, First	A	A	A	P		A
Red Creek	P	P	A	A	Harriette Potter	
Rock Stream	A	P		A	Gary Jones	
Romulus	A	A	A	A		A
Seneca Falls, First	A	A	A	P		A
Seneca, Seneca #9	A	A	A	A		A
Shortsville, First	A	A	A	A		A
Sodus, First United	A	P	A	A		A
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	A	P		P	Tom Bailey	
Trumansburg, First of Ulysses	P	P		P	Kristin Alling	
Waterloo, First	A	P		P		A
Watkins Glen, First	A	A	A	P	Katherine Meierjurger	
Weston, Weston	P	A		A		A
Williamson	A	A	A	A		A
Wolcott	P	P	A	P	Carol Merrill	
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	
<b>TOTAL EXCUSED</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	
<b>TOTAL ABSENT</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>33</b>		<b>31</b>

**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 <sup>nd</sup> GA Commisioner	Ex	P	P	P	P
Baker, Phoebe		Nominating Chair	P	P	P	P	P
Beals, Steven	West Fayette	CRE	A	P	A	P	P
Braun, Joann	Naples, Fed	Moderator	P	P	P	P	P
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	Ex	P	P	Ex	P
Colvin, Donna	Ovid	Synod Commissioner	A	A	A	P	P
Erb, Milt		Presbytery Treasurer	A	A	A	Ex	Ex
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A	A	A	Ex	A
Frost, Carleen		CRE	Ex	P	A	P	P
Gingerich, John	Wolcott	CRE / CPM Chair	P	P	P	P	P

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Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	P	Ex	A	P	P
Peek, Donald	Canisteo	CRE	P	A	A	A	A
Reynolds, Ellen	Geneva	General Council	P	P	P	P	P
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE	A	A	A	A	P
Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE / Moderator	Ex	P	P	Ex	P
Werts, Linda		P.W Representative	Ex	P	Ex	P	P
<b>TOTAL PRESENT</b>			<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>TOTAL EXCUSED</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>TOTAL ABSENT</b>			<b>5</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING**

Name	Presbytery / Agency

**REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)**

Includes CREs not serving churches

Janet Lynch	Ovid / clerk of session
Mary Kilgore	Hornell
Rosanna Bates	Pulteney
Taylor Champlin	Geneva / confirmation class
Kath Poole	Geneva / confirmation class
Troy Snook	Geneva / confirmation class
John Donn	Outreach Center
Linda Kataskas	Phelps

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 20	Sept 26	Nov 18
<b>Total Minister Commissioners Present*</b>	21	33	22	27	28
<b>Total Elder Commissioners Present</b>	27	35	31	36	40
<b>Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)</b>	+ 6	+2	+9	+9	+12
<b>Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**</b>	22	13	13	7	14
<b>Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***</b>	39	35	37	32	31
<b>Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors</b>	29	22	32	24	23
<b>Total Registered Visitors</b>	17	3	3	2	8
<b>Total Registered Attendance****</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>71</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>76</b>

\* 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  
 Welcome from the Host Church  
 Appoint composer of a resolution of thanks

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Announcements  
Report of the Stated Clerk - Val Fowler  
Report of the Transitional Leader – Linda Badger Becker  
10:15 a.m. Personnel Committee, Cindy Weaver  
10:25 a.m. Presbytery Nominating Committee, Phoebe Baker  
10:40 a.m. General Council, Ellen Reynolds  
10:50 a.m. Synod Mission & Ministry Commission, Virginia Champlin  
10:55 a.m. Anti-Racism Task Force Report, Lea Ntuala  
11:00 a.m. Committee on Preparation for Ministry, John Gingerich  
11:10 a.m. Camp Whitman Report, Lea Kone  
11:30 a.m. Worship  
12:15 p.m. Lunch in the Fellowship Hall  
1:00 p.m. Presbytery reconvened with prayer, Katherine Griffis, Vice-Moderator  
1:15 p.m. Budget & Finance (second reading of 2018 Budget), Tim Johnson  
1:30 p.m. Presbyterian Women, Linda Werts  
1:50 p.m. 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:

*There were no corresponding members.*

**(Welcome of New Elder Commissioners)**

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

*There were no first-time commissioners.*

Virginia Champlin welcomed the confirmation class members who were present to observe the presbytery meeting. She celebrated that Ry Weber, the youth elder serving on Geneva's session, was at that moment in the child-care room for the presbytery meeting.

Tom Bailey introduced the newest ordained minister in the presbytery: the Rev. Sabrina Slater, who was ordained in Tacoma, Washington on November 14, 2017 and will be serving Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Spencer, NY.

**(Welcome to the Presbytery)**

Deborah Lind-Schmitz, Pastor, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of Geneva Presbyterian Church, Geneva. She noted that the church was incorporated over 220 years ago. In 1800 the first pastor arrived: the Rev. Jedediah Chapman. The Rev. Chapman later was instrumental in establishing 10 Presbyterian and 1 Congregational church in the area.

The Geneva church is directly involved with 20 community charities; and their building hosts 30 groups involved in the life of the Geneva Community.

Most recently, the church has joined others in helping to establish the new Family Promise ministry.

She celebrated that Boy Scout Troop 4, whose members helped with parking for the meeting, is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

**(Resolution of Thanks)**

The Moderator appointed David Kilgroe 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 this meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva.

**(Approval of Minutes)**

2. **Approve** the Minutes of the September 26, 2017 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, held at First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, NY.

**Items for Presbytery's Information**

**(Ordination Anniversaries)**

A. 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. 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. Virginia Murray (July 12, 1987 – Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley)

The Rev. Janice Fitzgerald (December 12, 1987 – Presbytery of Genesee Valley)

**35 years** (1982)

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

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**

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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. 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 presented images of the presbytery's life and work: "Happy Geneva Presbyterians." She noted that she is enjoying her visits with congregations and can report that the churches of the Presbytery of Geneva are ALIVE and WELL.

Linda shared the progress of the General Council's work on the Transition Process. The General Council has shared working sessions following their meetings, and have focused on the first part of the Transition Process: Purpose. She related the work to the Great Commission at the end of Matthew's gospel, and the introductory sentences of the purpose of presbyteries from the *Book of Order*.

The Purpose Statement that the General Council will recommend for presbytery's approval is the fruit of their work, and flows from the decade-long process of self-reflection by the presbytery. They have reviewed the reports of all the self-assessments, and have reviewed the purpose statements developed during the past several years.

The General Council believes that another self-assessment is not needed, nor would it be helpful to the presbytery. The reports of the previous self-assessments, along with the previous purpose statements, show a remarkable consistency. The proposed purpose statement reflects that consistency.

In concluding her report, Linda noted the principle that "Nothing is likely to change unless **we** are changed." This is the spirit in which the General Council is working.

The General Council will resume the Transformational Process following the January meeting.

**PERSONNEL COMMITTEE**

Cindy Weaver, Chair, presented the report of the Personnel Committee.

- Darwyn Jepson is no longer in the presbytery's employ at Camp Whitman. The Personnel Committee will follow through in securing the maintenance services for the camp.
- Cindy honored the retirement of Karen Jensen after thirty years' service as Administrative Assistant. She read a letter from the Rev. Bob Rochelle, HR (now living in Connecticut), who was the Chair of the Personnel Committee which recommended Karen to the presbytery. Bob noted that he and others had had to sort of "twist Karen's arm" to serve the presbytery in such a way. He concluded by saying, "I cannot think of an arm that I have been prouder to have twisted!"

Cindy noted that each committee and working group of the presbytery have prepared gifts and cards for Karen, which they will present during their reports to the presbytery. Two large baskets were placed at the front of the sanctuary, to receive the gifts.

**PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

Elder Phoebe Baker, Chair, presented the report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee. Opportunity was given for nominations from the floor. There were none.

The presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons:

**Presbytery Vice-Moderator**

The Rev. Kirk Baker (Newark, Park)

**General Council**



Vice-Chair

The Rev. Amy Loving Austin (Bellona / Seneca #9)

**Committee on Budget & Finance**

**Class of 2018**

The Rev. Deborah Lind-Schmitz (Geneva)

**Class of 2019**

Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)

**Class of 2020**

Elder Barb Squires (Elmira, First)  
Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer, Christ the King)  
The Rev. David Ashby (Interim, Honeoye Falls)

**Committee on Ministry**

**Class of 2020**

The Rev. Stanley Bhasker (Bath)  
The Rev. Ellen Donnan (Junius / Dundee)  
Elder Bessie Tyrell (Naples)  
The Rev. Gail Heimberger (Sodus)  
Elder Rehana Stanley (Elmira, First)  
Elder Regie Stover (Arkport)

**Committee on Presbytery Personnel**

**Class of 2020**

Elder Stephen Beals, CRE (West Fayette)  
Deborah Grohman (Ontario Center)

**Committee on Property for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley**

**Class of 2020:**

Mr. Alan Doan (Penn Yan)

**Committee on Polity & Review**

**Class of 2018**

The Rev. Cara S. Milne (Watkins Glen)

**Class of 2019**

The Rev. Bruce Incze (Arkport)

**Class of 2020**

The Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell)  
Elder Carol Merrell (Wolcott)

**Committee on Preparation for Ministry**

**Class of 2020**

Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)  
The Rev. Kirianne Weaver Riehl (Ithaca)

**Committee on Representation**

**Class of 2019**

Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)  
The Rev. Jane Winters (Elmira, Westminster)

**Class of 2020**

Elder Marc Smith (Seneca Falls)

The Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls)

**Committee on Missions  
Class of 2020**

Elder Linda Werts (Newark, Park)  
The Rev. Sabrina Slater (Spencer)

**Commissioners to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (2018, St. Louis, MO)**

The Rev. Glenn Kennedy (Painted Post)  
Elder Linda Werts (Newark, Park)

**Alternate Commissioners to the 223<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly (2018, St. Louis, MO)**

The Rev. Rob Mellgard (Ovid)  
Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)

**SYNOD MISSION & MINISTRY COMMISSION**

Virginia Camplin spoke to the Presbyterian Church's ministry with immigrants.

She noted that the Synod of the Northeast has established an Immigrant Advocacy Fund to assist immigrants with the legal process. This is Fund to which individuals and churches may contributed.

**ANTI-RACISM WORK GROUP**

Leah Ntuala reported that several persons from the Presbytery of Geneva attended the October 21 Crossroads Anti-Racism Training held at Gates Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY. The Work Group will be following up, beyond the training event.

She noted that the members of the Work Group are now part of the Committee on Representation.

**COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY**

John Gingerich, Chair, reported for the Committee. He introduced Carleen Frost, who has completed the education process for Commissioned Ruling Elder: three years of classes at Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School; hands-on experience in churches, with pastor-mentors; and vocational assessment. Carleen Frost provided a Statement of Faith for the presbytery.

Carleen has been serving the Red Creek congregation. The Committee will be working toward a commissioning.

**CAMP WHITMAN REPORT**

Tom Bailey (Camp Whitman Committee) presented the report.

He noted that the Camp Whitman Committee is unlikely to recommend a single replacement for Darwyn Jepsen. Most likely two part-time staff persons will be recommended.

On behalf of the Committee and the Camp, Tom Bailey offered appreciation for Karen Jensen's many years of service as Camp Registrar.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR DUNDEE**

Paul Salisbury, clerk for the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Dundee, NY reported to the presbytery.

- The dissolution of the church will be effective December 31, 2017, by presbytery action; the church building has been put up for sale.
- The Community Christmas Eve Service will be held in the Dundee sanctuary on Sunday December 24, 2017 at 7:00 p.m.
- The Service of Celebration of the church's ministry will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday December 31, 2017 in the church sanctuary.

The presbytery VOTED to  
**Approve** the following statement:

**Pursuant to G-4.023 of the *Book of Order* of the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A.,  
the Presbytery of Geneva is the legal successor of the First Presbyterian Church  
of Dundee in Dundee, NY.**

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

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

**ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION**

The Committee VOTED to request that the presbytery:

**(Elmira, Westminster / Administrative Commission)**

1. **Appoint**—at the request of the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY—the following persons as an Administrative Commission to work with the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY as the session and congregation discern the issues of dissolving the congregation and/or selling the building.

Elder Jim Varner (Spencer)

The Rev. Jane Winters (Westminster)

Elder to be recruited and reported to the presbytery on November 18, 2017

Teaching Elder to be recruited and reported to the presbytery on November 18, 2017.

2. **Approve** the Charge for the Administrative Commission. [See **Appendix A**].

3. **Establish** the quorum of the Administrative Commission as three members.

**(Watkins Glen / Installation of the Rev. Cara S. Milne)**

4. **Receive** the minutes of the Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Cara S. Milne as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY on Sunday October 15, 2017 at 5:30 p.m. in the church sanctuary.

**Minutes of the Administrative Commission to Install**

Moderator Joann Braun called the commission into order on Sunday, October 15, 2017, 5:10 pm at the First Presbyterian Church, Watkins Glen, NY to Install Rev. Cara S. Milne. Rev. Jane Winters opened the Commission with Prayer. Moderator Joann Braun informed the Commission that Stanley Bhasker will serve as the Clerk for the Commission.

Members of the Commission Present:

RE Joann Braun, Moderator,

TE Stanley Bhasker (Bath)

TE Rev. James Hicks

TE Rev. Jane Winters

TE Rev. John Milne (Rtd)

TE Rev. Anita Milne

CRE Priscilla Andrews

CRE Kermit Bossard

The Commission has approved the Order of Service.

A motion was made by Rev. Jane Winters and seconded by Rev. Stanley Bhasker to dismiss the commission at the end of the Rev. Cara S Milne's installation service, and the commissioned voted in favor unanimously.

Before the procession into the worship service, Rev. Stanley Bhasker offered prayer.

The Constitutional Questions were answered affirmatively by Rev. Cara S. Milne and the congregation.

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA  
STATED MEETING**

**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GENEVA, NY  
NOVEMBER 18, 2017**

Rev. Cara S. Milne was ordained in the presbytery of Central Florida.

The Commission was dismissed following the close of the service with Benediction by Rev. Cara S. Milne at 6:40 pm.

Stanley Bhasker, Clerk of Commission, October 15, 2017

**(Administrative Commission for Romulus / Minutes)**

5. **Receive** the Minutes of the October 15, 2017 meeting of the Administrative Commission for Romulus. [See **Appendix B**]

**ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY**

Acting on behalf of presbytery, the Committee VOTED to:

**(Moderator Appointments)**

1. **Appoint** the Rev. Nancy Farrell (HR) as moderator of the Session of Huron Presbyterian Church, Huron, NY for the month of October 2017.
2. **Appoint** Elder Bessie Tyrrell, CRE as moderator of First Presbyterian Church, Pulteney, NY.
3. **Appoint** Elder Priscilla Andrews, CRE as moderator of the Moreland Presbyterian Church, Moreland, NY.

**(Park, Newark / Moderator for October)**

4. The request for appointment of a moderator is because of the pastor's study leave. The Rev. Kyle Delhagen will be invited to serve. The Committee granted permission to the co-chairs to seek a moderator, if the Rev. Delhagen is not available.

**ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION**

The Committee VOTED to:

**(Addison / Term Limit Waiver)**

1. **Recommend** that the presbytery approve a waiver of term limits for Ruling Elders. [NOTE: This waiver has been granted in previous years, due to the size of the congregation.]

**(Wolcott / the Rev. Walter Stuber)**

2. **Approve** the new Stated Supply Contract (half-time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Wolcott, NY and the Rev. Walter Stuber effective September 1, 2017 for 12 months, at the following terms:

Cash Salary	7,765.00
Housing Allowance	18,500.00
<b>Total Effective Salary</b>	<b>26,265.00</b>

Pension & Major Medical	13,779.96
Travel	1,500.00
Professional Expense	1,000.00
Study Leave	500.00

Study Leave: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays  
Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays

NOTE: These terms of call meet the presbytery minimum salary requirements.

**(Coaching)**

3. **Approve** COM partnership in providing coaching for our two newest pastors: Sabrina Slater (Spencer) and Cara Milne (Watkins Glen). If the way be clear, two coaching sessions will be provided free and six sessions

will be supported by the Hay Fund. Applications for financial support can be made to the Synod of the Northeast.

**(Transfers of Membership)**

- 4. **Approve** the transfer of the Rev. Marjory Roth to the Presbytery of Long Island, effective October 10, 2017.
- 5. **Approve** the transfer of the Rev. Russ Roth do the Presbytery of Long Island, effective November 7, 2017.
- 6. **Approve** the transfer of the Rev. James Yao to the Presbytery of Shenandoah, effective November 7, 2017.

**(Lakemont-Rock Stream / the Rev. Lucinda O’Leary)**

- 7. **Approve** the new contract between the sessions of Lakemont Presbyterian Church and Rock Stream Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Lucinda O’Leary, at the following terms:

	Total	Each Church
Salary and Housing	25,000.00	12,500.00
<b>Effective Salary</b>	<b>25,000.00</b>	<b>12,500.00</b>

[NOTE: Up to 60% may be used for housing.]

Pension & Major Medical	3,626.00	1,813.00
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Travel expenses reimbursed at current IRS mileage rate.

Vacation: 1 month, including 4 Sundays

Study leave: (2 weeks, including 2 Sundays)

**(Big Flats / the Rev. Beth Frigid)**

- 8. **Approve** the new Interim Pastor Contract (half-time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY and the Rev. Beth Frigid, effective October 1, 2017 for 12 months, at the following terms:

The following terms are the same as the previous year:  
Total Effective Salary (Cash Salary and Housing Allowance)  
Pension & Major Medical  
Travel  
Study leave (2 weeks, including 2 Sundays)

The following terms are different from the previous year:

Books & Supplies	\$2,000.00
Continuing Education	\$1,000.00

Vacation: 31 days, including 6 Sundays

The two additional Sundays are included for dedicated pastoral training.

**(Big Flats / Mission Statement)**

- 9. **Approve** the Mission Statement for First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY; and **grant permission** for the congregation to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

**(Williamson)**

- 10. The stated clerk reported to the Committee on Ministry that he has communicated with the Evangelical Presbyterian Church (the stated clerk and assistant stated clerk of the Presbytery of the East), to the clerk of session of the Williamson Church, the Administrative Commission for Williamson, and Bruce Chambers (the attorney working on behalf of the Administrative Commission) that the congregation has not been officially dismissed to the Evangelical Presbyterian Church because the requirements for dismissal have not been met (remission of back per-capita payments to the Presbytery of Geneva; and transfer of the original session records and rolls of the congregation). As part of the communication, the stated clerk provided a copy of the action approved by the presbytery on March 15, 2015.

The stated clerk has received responses from the stated clerk of the Presbytery of the East that they are working with the congregation to address those unresolved issues. The stated clerk has provided copies of his communication to the Administrative Commission and to the attorney working with the Commission.

**(Addendum AA, Standing Rules)**

**11. Request** the stated clerk will convene a gathering of persons who have indicated willingness to work on clear policies to guide the presbytery, its congregations, and any elected Administrative Commissions. Those persons are:

The Rev. Rob Mellgard (Ovid / member of COM)  
Elder Jim Varner (Hornell / member of COM)  
Elder Priscilla Andrews, CRE (Dundee / member of COM)  
Elder Donna Colvin (Pulteney / member of General Council)  
Elder Ellen Reynolds (Geneva / Chair of General Council)

The General Council has engaged in conversation regarding the policies for dismissal or dissolution of congregations.

**(Boundary Awareness Training)**

**12. Approve** holding a Boundary Awareness Training session in 2018. The Transitional Leader will contact David Olson as to his availability, and the cost for such a session.

**WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP**

Paul Salisbury shared images of previous trips to West Virginia, to accomplish housing rehabilitation.

He encouraged participation in the spring trip, April 15-21, 2018.

The presbytery offered prayer for Paul's wife, who is returning home from the hospital to recover from an injury sustained in a recent fall.

**SMALL CHURCH NETWORK REPORT**

Donna Colvin, offered Good News from the First Presbyterian Church of Pulteney. [The full statement is printed as **Appendix D.**]

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN**

Linda Werts celebrated the return of Virginia Champlin from the Global Women's Exchange in Indonesia. Churches are encouraged to invite Virginia Champlin to be present with them to share her experience.

This past year over 700 girls attended the Girls School in South Sudan. The popularity of the schools and the attendance has outgrown the buildings our presbytery has helped to build. The school is now hoping to hire an Assistant Principal.

The "Solar Lantern Project," which helps provide light for the girls as they travel in the darkness is still active.

In 2019 our Synod will host the National Women's Gathering.

Linda offered appreciation to Karen Jensen for all the ways she has assisted the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Geneva to be effective in their ministry.

**RECESS FOR WORSHIP AND LUNCH**

Vice-Moderator Katherine Griffis led the presbytery in prayer, including grace for the meal.

**SERVICE OF WORSHIP**

The presbytery entered into a time of worship.

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA  
STATED MEETING**

**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GENEVA, NY  
NOVEMBER 18, 2017**

Following the benediction the presbytery recessed to the Fellowship Hall for a lunch prepared by the members of The Presbyterian Church of Geneva, NY.

**RECONVENING**

Vice-Moderator Katherine Griffis assumed the chair, and reconvened the presbytery with prayer.

**GENERAL COUNCIL**

Ellen Reynolds presented the report of the General Council.

**ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION:**

The presbytery VOTED to:

**(Presbytery Mission Statement)**

1. **Approve** the following Mission Statement (to replace the current Mission Statement), effective immediately:

*The Presbytery of Geneva lives to support and equip congregations and leaders  
to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the world.*

**(Presbytery Meeting Dates)**

2. **Approve** the following dates for 2018 stated meetings:

January 27, 2018 (Saturday) – Penn Yan

March 20, 2018 (Tuesday) – Location to be confirmed

May 19, 2018 (Saturday) -- Wolcott

September 25, 2018 (Tuesday) – Watkins Glen

November 17, 2018 (Saturday) – Lake Street, Elmira / Fusion on Fire (location to be determined, in order to provide full accessibility)

**(Nominees for the Presbytery Nominating Committee)**

3. **Elect** the following persons to the Presbytery Nominating Committee:

**Class of 2018**                      Sylvia Dorschel (Sodus)

**Class of 2019**                      The Rev. David Kilgore (HR)

**Class of 2020**                      Elder Phoebe Baker (Penn Yan)  
The Rev. James Gerling (HR)  
Elder Carleen Frost, CRE

With these elections, the status of the Presbytery Nominating Committee is as follows:

<b>Class of 2018</b>	<b>Class of 2019</b>	<b>Class of 2020</b>
Elder Paul Salisbury (Newark)	Elder Larry Bates (Bath)	Elder Phoebe Baker (Newark)
Sylvia Dorschel (Sodus)	Linda Kataskas (Phelps)	The Rev. James Gerling (HR)
(VACANCY)	The Rev. Paul Malles (Penn Yan)	Elder Carleen Frost, CRE
	The Rev. David Kilgore (HR)	

**(Administrative Commission for Williamson)**

4. **Appoint** Elder Joann Braun (Naples) to the Administrative Commission for Williamson.

**(Presbytery Budget & Camp Whitman Budget)**

5. **Approve** the 2018 Presbytery Budget and the 2018 Camp Whitman Budget, as presented respectively by the Budget & Finance Committee and the Camp Whitman Advisory Committee.

**During the October 31, 2017 meeting of the General Council**, the General Council VOTED to approve the following amendments to the two budgets:

- a. **Approve** the following recommendations regarding the 2018 Camp Whitman Budget:
  - **Change** income Line 1550 (Presbytery of Geneva Mission Pledge) from \$100,000 to \$115,000.
  - **Change** income Line 1300 W (Camp Whitman Mission/Scholarship Income) from \$132,500 to \$117,500.

- b. **Approve** the following recommendations regarding the 2018 Presbytery Budget::
- **Amend** the 2018 Presbytery Budget Expense Line 5350 (Mission Allocation to Camp Whitman) from \$100,000 to \$115,000.
  - **Adjust** the Operating Budget so that there is no deficit; and the Mission Budget so that there is no surplus.
  - **Dedicate** any 2018 Budget Surplus to repayment of the designated fund accounts.

During the discussion it was noted that if the Operating Budget were fully funded by Per-Capita, the Per-Capita assessment would increase by at least \$6.00 per congregation member.

**ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION**

The General Council VOTED to:

**(Coordination of Presbytery Meetings)**

1. **Determine** that it is the privilege and responsibility of the moderator to coordinate presbytery meetings during her/his year of service.

**(January 2018 Stated Meeting)**

2. **Authorize**, if the way be clear, that the January 27, 2018 stated meeting of the presbytery be held at First Presbyterian Church, Penn Yan; and that the November 17, 2018 stated meeting be hosted by Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira and Fusion on Fire, at a location that is fully accessible.

**Background**

The General Council discussed at length the current invitation of Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira and Fusion on Fire, to host the January 2018 stated meeting of the presbytery.

The stated clerk noted that the invitation likely arose from a suggestion made during a visit to the Lake Street session by him and COM co-chair Ellen Donnan over a year ago. At that time, neither the stated clerk nor the COM co-chair knew that the Lake Street church building is 100% inaccessible.

Elder Kirk Allen is the COM liaison to the Lake Street session; Jane Winters has been liaison and has been connected with the session. The clerk of session is Barbara Dove.

The following process was agreed:

The Moderator will make contact with Elmira, Lake Street regarding the building's inaccessibility, and the possibility of Elmira, Westminster being the location for Lake Street's hosting.

The back-up location for the meeting will be Penn Yan.

Another possibility to be suggested:

That Penn Yan be the location of the January 27, 2018 stated meeting; and that the November 17, 2018 meeting be hosted by Lake Street (with Westminster as the location).

**NOTE:** These items were followed up, and are reflected in Action Item 2, above: recommendations for the 2018 stated meetings of the Presbytery of Geneva.

**(Presbytery Communications Work Group)**

3. **Concur** with the following recommendations from the report of the Presbytery Communications Work Group:

**(Website)**

- That content for the website be prioritized to include information from or about Presbytery, its congregations, and its leaders. In addition, the website will provide information from and about the Synod and the General Assembly. The guiding question to ask is, *"How does this particular item benefit the work of the presbytery, the congregations, the Synod of the Northeast, and the General Assembly?"*



- That congregations be invited to announce their events on the website by providing links to their own websites and/or brief descriptions of their events. An events tab has been added on the home page to help facilitate this.
- That there be a space provided for good news from congregations, brief articles and pictures of congregational life.
- That the Presbytery website not be used to promote individual or corporate businesses or to sell products. [NOTE: There will be a means of tracking the statistics regarding the use of the website.]

**(Facebook)**

- That the purpose of the Presbytery Facebook page be primarily to promote and connect people to the common life of the Presbytery and to denominational concerns, events, and resources.. *The website may be used for announcing congregational events. Congregations will be encouraged to open their own Facebook pages.*

**(Regular E-news Publication)**

- That a regular general electronic email distribution be developed that will remind people of upcoming events and connect them timely information. This is definitely a development piece, which will debut early in 2018.

**(Moderator's Newsletter)**

- It is recommended that the Moderator's newsletter be published following each Presbytery meeting and that the purpose of the newsletter be to highlight what happened at the Presbytery meeting, to announce installations and ordinations, as well as any other activities of the Moderator. The Moderator's Letter will eventually be sent in the context of the e-news publication. The Moderator's Letter could even comprise one of the e-news editions.

**(A related item)**

The presbytery has received a proposal for providing wi-fi access at all presbytery meetings, incorporating those churches which are not wi-fi connected.

**(Horseheads / Cell Tower Lease – action taken in General Council's role as Presbytery Trustees)**

4. **Disapprove** the proposed lease with the rationale that it is not a good contract and that it would not be beneficial to the church or to the presbytery to engage in such 25 year lease agreement.
5. **Authorize** A.J. Tierson (co-chair, Committee on Ministry) to communicate this decision to the Horseheads session.

**Background**

The General Council discussed the issue of First Presbyterian Church, Horseheads, NY leasing a portion of their property for a Verizon cell tower.

- The lease is a 25 year lease for an initial payment of \$3,000 and \$100/month thereafter.

The General Council noted that:

- The amount offered by the company is very small, compared with industry standards.
- The lease will potentially inhibit the sale of the church property, if that ever is an issue.
- The rights and limitations are huge, given the 25 year lease.

**(West Virginia Mission Trip – April 2018)**

6. **Approve** the West Virginia Mission Trip, to be held in April 2018.

At the conclusion of the General Council Report, Ellen Reynolds made the motion on behalf of the General Council, that the presbytery:

**Approve** the 2018 Presbytery Budget as presented by the Budget & Finance Committee.

**BUDGET & FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

During the discussion of the budget, and prior to the vote, a presbyter proposed the following motion, which received a second:

That the presbytery **refer again** to the General Council and the Budget & Finance Committee the matter of returning the entire salary and benefits package of the Transitional Leader to the Ecclesiastical (Operations) Budget, with the expectation that a proposal that accomplishes this be returned to the floor of the presbytery.

After significant discussion, the presbytery VOTED to **defeat** the motion, by a counted vote of 17 for and 27 against.

[NOTE: A letter to the General Council from the Missioners Committee of First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY, and endorsed by the session, is included as **Appendix E.**]

The motion to refer having been defeated the presbytery VOTED to **approve** the 2018 Presbytery Budget as presented. [NOTE: The vote was not unanimous.]

**RESOLUTION OF THANKS**

David Kilgore presented the Resolution of Thanks:

*"Now thank we all our God, with heart and hands and voices."  
We give thanks to God for Scouts and parking attendants and greeters who welcomed us to this church in Geneva.  
We rejoice that we have been fed with soup and bread and word and sacrament.  
We are glad for the gift of music and the talent that led us today in song.  
For the hospitality we received today and for the grace that lives in our meeting,  
Now thank we all our God.*

**CLOSING**

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

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Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk

*APPENDIX A: Charge for the Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY  
APPENDIX B: Minutes of the October 15, 2017 Meeting of the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Romulus, NY.  
APPENDIX C: Current Committee on Ministry Liaison Assignments  
APPENDIX D: Good News from the First Presbyterian Church of Pulteney, NY  
APPENDIX E: Letter from Missioners Committee & Session of First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY*

**Next Meeting of the Presbytery:  
Tuesday Saturday January 27, 2018 ~ First Presbyterian Church, Penn Yan, NY**

**APPENDIX A**

**Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY  
November 18, 2017 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva  
Geneva Presbyterian Church, Geneva, NY**

**CHARGE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

Approved by the Presbytery of Geneva during the stated meeting of November 18, 2017  
at Geneva Presbyterian Church, Geneva, NY

The **Presbytery of Geneva** establishes the following **charge** for the work of the Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY.

**BACKGROUND**

During several meetings in 2017, the Committee on Ministry received indications from the Pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY that the congregation was beginning to consider the viability of the congregation in their current building, and thus the possibility of selling the building. Over time, that consideration has expanded to include the question of the congregation's dissolution.

The session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY has requested that the Presbytery of Geneva appoint an Administrative Commission to work with the session and congregation as they discern the will of God regarding the continuation of the church as a congregation and/or the sale of the building.

**MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

- Ruling Elder Jim Varner (Spencer)
- The Rev. Jane Winters (Westminster)
- Ruling Elder to be recruited and reported to the presbytery on November 18, 2017
- Teaching Elder to be recruited and reported to the presbytery on November 18, 2017.

**By presbytery action, the quorum for meetings of the Administrative Commission will be three members.**

**CHARGE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR  
WESTMINSTER PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ELMIRA, NY**

**NOTE:** This charge does not grant the Administrative Commission original jurisdiction of any responsibility of the session. The Administrative Commission is to (1) serve a partnering, advisory role with the session; and (2) protect the interests of the presbytery. If circumstances warrant, the Administrative Commission may request that the presbytery grant original jurisdiction for a portion or portions of the session's responsibilities, or for all of the responsibilities of the session. Apart from such a request, the session has all the authority granted to it by the *Constitution* of the PCUSA, as spelled out in **F-3.0209**:

*Councils possess whatever administrative authority is necessary to give effect to duties and powers assigned by the Constitution of the church. The jurisdiction of each council is limited by the express provisions of the Constitution, with powers not mentioned being reserved to the presbyteries.*

**Moreover**, the duties outlined below are designed, in part, to guide the Administrative Commission in encouraging and supporting the work of the **session**. The assumption is not that the Commission will do all the tasks outlined below, but rather that the Commission will ensure that tasks are completed which are rightly the responsibility of the session.

**THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

1. The Administrative Commission shall confirm to the presbytery through the stated clerk, a moderator and a clerk of the Commission.
  - a. The moderator shall convene meetings of the Administrative Commission, lead the meetings of the Commission, serve as the primary contact for persons who wish to communicate with the commission, and ensure the Commission's support of the session of the Westminster church.

- b. The clerk shall keep the minutes of the Commission and a record of the Commission's activities. The clerk shall complete all correspondence, as directed by the Commission; and report to the Commission any correspondence received. The clerk
2. The Administrative Commission shall approve the minutes prepared by the clerk.
3. The Administrative Commission, through the clerk of the Commission, shall provide to the stated meeting of the presbytery (for inclusion in the presbytery minutes) all Commission minutes since the previous stated meeting of the presbytery.
4. The presbytery stated clerk shall serve as the primary staff resource to the Administrative Commission.
5. The Administrative Commission will help the session in its discernment of the future of the church, through their presence in conversations and discernment activities, in providing resources (persons and written) that might assist the session's work, assisting with communication to the congregation regarding the session's work, and assisting the session in arranging for congregational conversations and discernment, and other supportive guidance as the Commission deems necessary and appropriate.
6. Decisions to dissolve the congregation, sell the building, or both will require two duly-called congregation meetings:
  - a. An informational meeting, with opportunity for questions and responses.
  - b. A meeting for congregational action on the recommendations of the session and the Administrative Commission.
7. The responsibilities and duties listed below will follow on the decision of the session to recommend sale of the building, dissolution of the congregation, or both.

**THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

**I. ARRANGE FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF CHURCH MEMBERS**

1. Work with the session to identify where members wish to transfer their membership, and when the transfer is to be completed.
2. Provide pastoral support and care to the Pastor serving the Westminster church during this time of transition.
3. Prior to dissolution, the clerk of session will effect transfers of membership, as requested by members.
4. Provide to the stated clerk the names and contact information of members who have not transferred their membership prior to dissolution of the church. The stated clerk will effect transfers requested after dissolution.

**II. ASCERTAIN THE FINANCIAL STATUS AND OUTSTANDING FINANCIAL OBLIGATIONS OF THE SESSION**

1. Conduct a financial review of the Treasurer's books for the last 12 months.
2. Determine location of checking accounts, savings accounts, endowment accounts, Sunday School accounts, Women's group accounts and any other financial resources.
3. On endowment or memorial accounts, determine if there are any bequest stipulations.
4. Have all accounts closed, transferring any balances to the primary checking account of the Session (to meet any outstanding obligations) or to the presbytery.
5. If any church accounts remain open, submit new signature card(s) for accounts with at least two officers of the presbytery designated as signatories (usually the treasurer and stated clerk).
6. Determine any outstanding debts/obligations.
7. Publish in local paper a public notice to the effect:  
*The \_\_\_\_\_ Church of \_\_\_\_\_, NY will end its ministry on or about (date). Any outstanding debts/financial obligations must be submitted in writing to the church treasurer at (address) by the close of the business day (date)*
8. Authorize the payment of all financial obligations.
9. Provide a "statement of contribution" to all current year contributors.
10. If the church owns any stocks, bonds, certificates, or other financial instruments have ownership of such transferred to the Presbytery of Geneva.
11. Following the dissolution, transfer all remaining account balances to the Presbytery of Geneva and close any remaining church accounts.

**III. SECURE THE SESSION RECORDS**

1. Locate all Session minutes, the church register, and other financial and legal records to be submitted to the Stated Clerk of the presbytery for appropriate disposition.
2. The Clerk of Session will hand these symbolically to a representative of the Stated Clerk at the conclusion of the Presbytery's recognition of the ministry of the church.

**IV. SECURE THE LEGAL RIGHTS TO THE PROPERTY**

1. Secure a Clear Title to the property.
2. Provide a copy of the deed to the Presbytery Board of Trustees (General Council). A copy of the deed may be obtained from the County Courthouse. Ascertain if there are any deed restrictions or stipulations.
3. Transfer title of the property to the Presbytery of Geneva.
4. List the property on the Presbytery's property and liability insurance coverage, terminate any other current insurance coverage.
5. Notify the County Assessor's Office that the property is no longer used as a church as of the dissolution date.
6. Discover if the congregation is incorporated; if so:
  - a. Locate the Articles of Incorporation.
  - b. Publish a public Notice to Dissolve a Corporation in the local newspaper.
  - c. Adopt and publish the following motion:  
***"Pursuant to G-4.0203) of the Book of Order of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), the Presbytery of Geneva is the legal successor of the Westminster Presbyterian Church in Elmira, NY.***

**V. SECURE THE BUILDING AND PROPERTY**

The session has a responsibility and right to advise as to the distribution of the proceeds of the sale of the building, with the following parameters:

- If the sale **precedes the dissolution**, the Administrative Commission will guide the process of appropriately following that advice. The Presbytery of Geneva will have the final approval of such distribution.
  - If the sale **follows the dissolution**, the Presbytery of Geneva will determine the distribution of the proceeds of the sale of the property. The Administrative Commission will communicate the session's desires and recommendations.
1. Arrange for the disposition of furnishings. The Session, with the concurrence of the Administrative Commission may arrange for the disposition of furnishings, communion ware, hymnals, Sunday School supplies, pulpit, lectern, and communion table, etc. These may be given away, sold by the piece, or bids may be received for the entire lot of furnishing. The Administrative Commission shall be consulted and concur with the decision to dispose of any item thought to be of historic value. It is recommended that at least one appraisal by an antiques dealer/estate assessor be obtained before accepting any bids.
  2. These decisions should be documented in detail in both Session and Commission minutes.
  3. Ascertain which utilities should remain connected and which may be disconnected and make these arrangements with the proper companies. Transfer the billing for the utilities to the Presbytery of Geneva effective on the dissolution date. It may be necessary to maintain heat during the winter to avoid damage. Electricity and water should remain on.
  4. Arrangements should be made to drain the water pipes if the utilities can be turned off.
  5. Secure the building and recover keys from anyone who does not need access.
  6. If distribution of keys is widespread and any contents are valuable, consider having the locks changed.
  7. Make provisions through the Property Committee for a caretaker until the final disposition of the property, including mowing of lawn and maintenance of any sidewalks.
  8. After the closing worship service remove any identifying signage and the cornerstone, if possible (checking for a time capsule).

**VI. PLAN A FINAL WORSHIP SERVICE CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND MINISTRY OF THE CONGREGATION** (in partnership with the session)

1. Set the date and time for the service.
2. Allow time for the date to be publicized and the invitations issued.
3. Decide what special features the service should include.
4. Determine whether the service will include the Service of the Lord's Supper.
5. Consider structuring the service using the resources from the *Book of Occasional Services* which has a service on "Vacating of a Church Building," including the dissolution of a church.
6. Identify a possible preacher and other participants.
7. Former pastors / preachers may be invited.
8. At least one representative from the church should be included.
9. At least one representative from the Administrative Commission should be included.
10. The stated clerk and the Transitional Leader should be included.
11. Identify favorite hymns of church members (and identify favorite hymns of the **congregation** as a whole).
12. Consider possibilities for special music.
13. Have the session determine where the proceeds from the offering will go.
14. Arrange for ushers, parking attendants (if needed), and elders to serve Communion (if that is part of the service).
15. Format, type, and print bulletins.
16. Arrange for preparation of communion elements.
17. Arrange for any needed cleaning of the facility before and after the service.
18. Arrange for a reception following the service (location / how food will be provided / financial resources of the congregation to pay for a reception .
19. Appoint a group to take charge of decorating and other arrangements.
20. Gather memorabilia to display.

**VII. PUBLICIZE THE SERVICE ENDING THE MINISTRY OF THE CHURCH** (in partnership with the session)

1. Have church members make a "guest list" (with contact information) of relatives, friends, former members, etc. whom they wish to invite to the service.
2. Have invitations printed and facilitate (sending them (sent by a person or group / sent by church members . . . with the stamps provided from church funds).
3. Design a flier or write a letter to be distributed to the churches and members of the presbytery. Send flier or letter to the presbytery office, with ample time for duplication and distribution.
4. Prepare a press release for local newspapers.
5. Arrange for local newspaper coverage and a photographer.

**VIII. DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION**

1. The Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY is dissolved upon the completion of its work and its final report to the Presbytery of Geneva.

**APPENDIX B**  
**Administrative Commission for**  
**Romulus Presbyterian Church, Romulus, NY**

**MINUTES – October 15, 2017**

The regular meeting of the Romulus Presbyterian Church was opened with prayer by Moderator Joy Novack following the church service and a dish-to-pass. The AC portion of the meeting was the last item on the regular Session meeting agenda. Present were: Pastor Joy Novack, Session members George Bassett, Ruth Bassett, James Hinman, Diana Hinman, Susan Deidrich, and AC members Pastor Steve Beals and Kermit Bossard. For the AC portion of the meeting, Steve acted as Moderator and Kerm as clerk.

Current status:

- ❖ They are currently worshiping in the church, but would like to move back into the reception area as soon as the room is cleared of all the items for the yard sale. Note-items not sold will be given to the Salvation Army.

- ❖ Church items-including pulpit, chairs, communion table, etc—are being offered free to churches affected by flooding or disasters. It was suggested that those items be inventoried and pictures be available to churches who want these items.
- ❖ A purchase offer has been made for the church for \$110,000. That was countered by the church for \$125,000.
- ❖ That process was interrupted when COM told them that they need to have an appraisal first. The appraisal is being done by the John Parrot agency at a cost of about \$1000 and will be available in about two weeks.
- ❖ Historical records will be sent to Philadelphia. Presbytery needs to tell them what needs to be kept, and what to do with items such as financial reports.
- ❖ Their total cash is currently about \$8000. That will drop by \$1000 when they pay for the appraisal.
- ❖ After thought and prayer, Joy would like to "Change my mind" concerning my decision to "retire" at the end of this year. When the congregation decided to sell the church building, I told them I would stay with them no matter what the future held. I would like to honor my promise, with support and assistance from the COM. I plan to inform the congregation of my decision on Sunday.
- ❖ If COM agrees, I would ask that, if possible, my Annual Pastoral Review be done during the November 19th session meeting.
- ❖

If the building is sold

- ❖ The congregation has not made a decision about whether they will or will not continue to worship as a congregation.
- ❖ The congregation will either use the money to continue worshipping together, give the money to several designated sources (Food Pantry, STEPS, Mt. Green Cemetery, Camp Whitman, Fire Department, Christmas Joy Offering, Presbyterian Disaster Relief, 2 cents per meal fund), or a combination of the two.

If the building is sold after January 1, 2018

- ❖ Pastor Joy has a contract until 12/31/17.
- ❖ Pastor Joy will be available to conduct Sunday services as a supply Pastor at the regular suggested rate, or to extend her contract with the congregation..

Pastoral Care

- ❖ Discussed, but not knowing the direction the congregation wants to take; this was difficult.
- ❖ Right now, Joy is handling all Pastoral care items-visitation, etc.

After Jan. 1, the AC will need to help the congregation figure this out. At the point when the congregation may decide to dissolve, additional help will be needed.

## **APPENDIX C**

### **Liaison Assignments** Revised September 5, 2017

**Kirk Allen:**

Addison  
Elmira Lake Street & Fusion on Fire  
Jasper  
Painted Post  
Westminster, Elmira

**Stanley Bhasker:**

Corning  
Corning Chinese Christian Church  
Hornell

**Priscilla Andrews:**

Bath  
Hammondsport  
Penn Yan  
Pulteney  
Rock Stream,  
Weston

**Kerm Bossard:**

Burdett  
Hector  
Lodi  
Romulus  
Trumansburg

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA  
STATED MEETING**

**GENEVA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, GENEVA, NY  
NOVEMBER 18, 2017**

**Ellen Donnan:**  
Newark  
Sodus

Junius  
Marion  
Shortsville

**Jim Kerr:**  
Lyons  
Geneva  
Oaks Corners  
Phelps

**AJ Tierson:**  
Palmyra Western

**Gail Heimberger:**  
Huron  
Ontario Center  
Red Creek  
Wolcott

**Dick Schied:**  
Atlanta  
Dundee  
Moreland  
Prattsburgh

**Jim Hicks:**  
Ithaca  
Ovid  
Watkins Glen

**Bessie Tyrell**  
Canandaigua  
Cohocton  
Naples

**Rob Mellgard:**  
Bellona  
Seneca Falls,  
Seneca #9  
Waterloo,  
West Fayette

**Jim Varner:**  
Almond  
Andover  
Arkport  
Canistota  
Howard Union

**Carol Merrell:**  
East Palmyra

**Jane Winters:**  
Big Flats  
Elmira North  
Elmira First  
Horseheads  
Spencer

**APPENDIX D**

**SMALL CHURCH NETWORK ~ FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH of PULTENEY**

As a small church nestled above the west side of Keuka Lake in an agricultural area with vineyards, dairies, wineries, breweries, cash crops, and a few home industries, our church continues to thrive even though we are an aging congregation. You may ask "How?" and that is a very good question.

A lot of what happens every Sunday just comes together. No one person seems to be in charge. If it needs to be done, someone does it, such as our coffee hour and fellowship time following worship, cleaning the church, doing the seasonal change of the altar flowers, and the list goes on.

If in bad weather—which I am sure will soon be upon us—the pastor for the day or the organist can't get there, those of us there take certain parts of the service. Someone usually steps in either to play the organ or the piano (we have three ladies that can play). Instead of a sermon, we usually sing favorite hymns. We often plan our own Christmas Eve services, with readings from the Bible and hymns that tell about the birth of Jesus, ending with the lighting of the candles.

For nearly five years, we have hosted senior citizens for lunch on Mondays and Thursdays, through Steuben/Yates ProAction Aging in Place program. Meals are delivered through ProAction, and now the group even heats their own meals! They all enjoy the socialization it offers.

For 50 years, plus our church has held our annual harvest dinner—Turkey dinner with all the trimmings—the first Saturday in November. It began at the church with seatings, and people waited for their number to be called. Once the new fire hall was built, we moved it up there. This year we served 275 folks!



Also at the Harvest Dinner, the women of the church hold a bazaar, bake sale, and more recently a gift basket raffle. Years ago the homemade quilt raffle was a big money-maker for the women.

We have a prayer shawl group and as of this date, they have given out 95 shawls to members of the congregation, their relatives, members of the community, both near and far. We also do Operation Christmas Child, and this year we totaled 32 boxes. We collect items for our local food pantry in Prattsburgh, including school supplies. Adults and youth in the church also participate in Vacation Bible School in Hammondsport each June.

Our choir is sometimes equal to the number in the congregation, and they always provide a weekly anthem. Summer visitors even sing with them.

Many of our congregation volunteer in the ambulance corps, fire department, firemen's auxiliary, library board, and other organizations in the surrounding community.

Did we ever have a low point? In asking a few, "Maybe for a Sunday or two, but we usually bounced back quickly." And yes, we do agree to disagree at times. Our 'down to earth' belief in God and the work God has us doing in Pulteney will keep us going another 200 years—a church where "the vineyard bears fruit."

**APPENDIX E**  
**Letter to General Council from**  
**First, Ithaca Missions Committee / Session**

Dear General Council of the Presbytery of Geneva:

We, the Missioners Committee of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, are writing to request a 2018 Presbytery budget that separates the operating budget from the mission budget.

When we, as stewards of our congregation's mission funds, send money to the Presbytery, we do so expecting that the funds will go directly to mission projects, such as Session Initiative Projects and Camp Whitman. We expect that Presbytery salaries come out of operations funds, which we support through our per capita contributions. We respectfully request that Presbytery propose a budget that clearly delineates these separate income and expense streams so that we may make informed decisions about our own church budget and be accountable to our congregation.

Sincerely,

The Missioners Committee of First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca  
Endorsed by the Session of First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca at their meeting on  
October 23, 2017.