

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

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Geneva held a duly-called Stated Meeting on Saturday January 27, 2018 at the First Presbyterian Church, Penn Yan, 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 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Austin, Amy Loving – Bellona Memorial / Seneca, Seneca #9	P				
Baker, Kirk – Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)	P				
Bhasker, Stanley – Bath, Bath	P				
Crimmins, Betsey – Elmira, First	Ex				
Delhagen, Kyle – Palmyra, Western (RCA, Formula of Agreement)	P				
Donnan, Ellen – Dundee, First / Junius, Junius	P				
Griffis, Katherine – Hornell, United	P				
Grohman, Deb – Ontario, Ontario	A				
Heimberger, Gail – Sodus, First United	P				
Incze, Bruce Imre – Arkport	P				
Kennedy, Glen – Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)	A				
Kerr, James – Canandaigua, United	A				
Lester, Donald – Howard, Union*	A				
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – Geneva, The Presbyterian Church of Geneva	P				
McDonald, John – Ithaca, First	P				
Malles, Paul – Penn Yan, First	P				
Marr, Peter – Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*	A				
Mellgard, Rob – Ovid Federated	P				
Milne, Cara Sutton – Watkins Glen	A				
Ntuala, Leah – Seneca Falls, First	A				
O'Leary, Lucinda – Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*	A				
Peeples, Cheryl – Trumansburg, First Ulysses	P				
Preisendanz, David – Elmira, North	P				
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – Ithaca, First	A				
Slater, Sabrina – Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church	P				
Tierson, A.J. – Phelps / United Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)	P				
Ugoretz, Jeffrey – Corning, First	A				
Winters, Jane – Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)	P				
TOTAL PRESENT	17				
TOTAL EXCUSED	1				
TOTAL ABSENT	10				

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Ashby, David (V) -- Interim Pastor, Honeoye Falls, NY	P				
Campbell, Anne (AL)	A				
Delhagen, Harold (V) – Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast	Ex				
Duncan, Russell (V) -- United Church of Salem, Salem, VT (UCC)	Ex				
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) -- Robinson Memorial PC, Syracuse, NY	P				
Frank, Aaron (AL)	A				
Haines, Todd (AL)	A				
Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A				
McCollister, Dan (AL)	A				

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PENN YAN, NY
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Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	Ex				
Warrington, Karl (AL)	P				
Weaver, Cindy (AL)	P				
TOTAL PRESENT	4				
TOTAL EXCUSED	3				
TOTAL ABSENT	5				

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

Name	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Barnard, David	Ex				
Bartel, Joanne	Ex				
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex				
Coffman, Fred	Ex				
Courtney, Philip	Ex				
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex				
Crego, Peter	Ex				
Edwards, Sam	Ex				
Elder, John	Ex				
Farrell, Nancy	Ex				
Flaherty, Scott	Ex				
Gerling, Jim	Ex				
Gould, John	Ex				
Hicks, James	Ex				
Hood, Kenneth	Ex				
Husted, Susan	Ex				
Johnson, Timothy	P				
Karr-Lyon, Beverly	Ex				
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex				
Kilgore, David	P				
Knight, Jonathan	Ex				
Magley, Fred	Ex				
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex				
Montgomery, Tom	Ex				
Murray, Virginia	Ex				
Newman, James	Ex				
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex				
Price, Richard	Ex				
Rochelle, Robert	Ex				
Teller, Gailey	Ex				
Tennies, Herb	Ex				
Tyrrell, Jamie (<i>Presbytery Treasurer</i>)	Ex				
Valk, John	Ex				
TOTAL PRESENT	2				

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 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Badger Becker, Elder Linda -- <i>Transitional Leader (Pby of Genesee Valley)</i>	P				
Elfond, the Rev. Cheryl Ann -- <i>Elmira, North (Pby of Susquehanna Valley)</i>	A				
Frigard, the Rev. Beth -- <i>Big Flats (Formula of Agreement – UCC)</i>	A				
Lostetter, the Rev. Robin – <i>Naples, Trinity (Presbytery of Pittsburgh)</i>	A				
Schwartz, the Rev. Barbara -- <i>Hector & Lodi (Pby of Susquehanna Valley)</i>	P				
Stuber, the Rev. Walter -- <i>Wolcott (Pby of Genesee Valley)</i>	A				
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo (Disciples of Christ)</i>	A				
TOTAL PRESENT	2				
TOTAL EXCUSED	0				

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
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**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PENN YAN, NY
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TOTAL ABSENT	5				
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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 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (<i>Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	P				
TOTAL PRESENT					
TOTAL EXCUSED					

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency
The Rev. Carol Wilson	Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Addison, Addison	A				
Almond Union	A				
Andover, First	A				
Arkport, First	A				
Atlanta, Atlanta	A				
Bath, First	A				
Benton, Bellona	A				
Big Flats, First	A				
Burdett, Burdett	A				
Canandaigua, United	Mark Slomski				
Canisteo, Canisteo	A				
Cohocton, First	A				
Corning, First	A				
Dundee, First	Dissolved, 12/31/2017				
Elmira, First	Patricia Kaperska				
Elmira, Lake Street	A				
Elmira, North	Jeff Richards				
Elmira, Westminster	A				
Fayette, W. Fayette	A				
Geneva (1)	John Hovey				
Geneva (2)	Ed Frick				
Hammondsport, First	A				
Hector, First	Susan Rocholl				
Hornell, United	Lisa Sanford				
Horseheads, First	A				
Howard, Howard Union	A				
Huron, Huron	A				
Ithaca, First	A				
Jasper, Jasper	A				
Junius, Junius	Kristi Ward				
Lodi, Lodi	A				
Lyons, First	A				
Marion, United	Constance Franks				
Moreland, Moreland	A				
Naples, Trinity Fed.	Don Braun				
Newark, Park	A				
Oaks Corners	Mae Schweikard				
Ontario, First	A				
Ovid Federated	A				
Painted Post, United	A				
Palmyra, East Palmyra	A				
Palmyra, Western	Philip Opdyke				

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PENN YAN, NY
January 27, 2018**

Penn Yan, First	Sue Goodrich				
Phelps, United		A			
Prattsburg, First		A			
Pulteney, First	Rosanna Bates				
Red Creek	Virginia Kachurak				
Rock Stream	Priscilla Andrews				
Romulus	Connie Hilkert				
Seneca Falls, First		A			
Seneca, Seneca #9		A			
Shortsville, First		A			
Sodus, First United		A			
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	Kermit Bossard				
Trumansburg, First of Ulysses	Elspeth Peterson				
Waterloo, First		A			
Watkins Glen, First		A			
Weston, Weston		A			
Williamson		A			
Wolcott	Carol Merrell				
TOTAL PRESENT	20				
TOTAL EXCUSED	0				
TOTAL ABSENT		39			

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

(Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Anderson, Rob	Penn Yan	222 nd GA Commissioner	A				
Baker, Phoebe		Nominating	P				
Bailey, Tom	Spencer	Budget & Finance					
Beals, Steven	West Fayette	CRE / Personnel	P				
Braun, Joann	Naples, Fed	Moderator	P				
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	P				
Colvin, Donna	Pulteney	Synod Commissioner		A			
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE		A			
Frost, Carleen	Oaks Corners	CRE	P				
Gingerich, John	Wolcott	CRE / Council Chair	P				
Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	P				
Peek, Donald	Canisteo	CRE	P				
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE					
Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE	P				
Werts, Linda		P.W. President	P				
TOTAL PRESENT			10				
TOTAL EXCUSED			0				
TOTAL ABSENT			3				

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)

Includes CREs not serving churches

Edith Mellgard	Ovid Federated
Mary Jane Peek	Pulteney
Michelle Serra	Almond Union
Ellen Reynolds	Geneva / General Council, immediate past Chair
Harriette Potter	Pulteney

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	25				
Total Elder Commissioners Present	30				
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+5				
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**	21				
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***	39				
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	23				
Total Registered Visitors	4				
Total Registered Attendance****	66				

* 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
Announcements
- 9:50 a.m. Report of the Stated Clerk - Val Fowler
- 10:00 a.m. Worship (including installation of Moderator Katherine Griffis and Vice-moderator Kirk Baker; Necrology Roll; Communion)
- 10:45 a.m. General Council – John Gingerich, Chair
- 10:55 a.m. Presbytery Nominating Committee – Phoebe Baker
- 11:00 a.m. Committee on Ministry – Ellen Donnan & A.J. Tierson
- 11:30 a.m. Resolution of Thanks
- 11:35 p.m. Adjourn with Prayer – the Rev. Katherine Griffis, Moderator

(Enrollment of Corresponding Members)

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

- The Rev. Carol Wilson, a member of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley

(Welcome of New Elder Commissioners)

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

- *There were no first-time elder commissiners.*

(Resolution of Thanks)

The Moderator appointed the Rev. Kirk Baker 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.

Among the announcements was a report concerning the upcoming *Living Waters of Life* mission trip to Mexico, through Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY. The Rev. David Preizendanz offered prayer for the trip, the participants, and the recipients of their energy and labor.

STATED CLERK REPORT

Items for Presbytery's Action

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 November 18, 2017 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva. held at First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, NY.

Stated Clerk Information Items

Items for Presbytery's Information

(Educational Moment: Conduct of Meetings)

- A. The stated clerk offered a brief educational review of the conduct of presbytery meetings, and drew attention to the pertinent section of the Report of the General Council. He suggested that the *Robert's Rules of Order* guidelines of meetings are well-placed in the context of the presbytery's new purpose statement, in that they enable the presbytery—while in a meeting—to fulfill the purpose of its work in service to Jesus Christ. He also placed the guidelines within the context of the four things which *Robert's Rules of Order* protects:
 - The right of all members to KNOW
 - The right of all members to SPEAK
 - The right of all members to ELECT those who will lead them
 - The right of all members to BE ELECTED to serve

He suggested that something as simple as coming to the microphone preserves the right of all members to KNOW, because if they cannot hear what is being said, they cannot KNOW what is being said, which might affect how they discern Christ's guidance and will through the discussion.

The stated clerk also spoke to the importance of the guidelines in preserving the authority of the Moderator to "preserve the unity of the body." It is the moderator who recognizes those who will speak; it is the Moderator to whom comments should be addressed (unless the Moderator deems it appropriate that the speaker address the body directly, as in the case of presenting a report.

(An Invitation to Clerks of Session)

- B. The stated clerk alerted the clerks present that he will soon send an e-mail letter to all clerks of session, inviting them to consider signing up for a particular presbytery meeting, to sit with the stated clerk as an extra set of eyes and ears, to take notes for the meeting. The stated clerk will blend those notes with his, in the hope of producing minutes that are an even more accurate account of the presbytery's deliberations.

(Ordination Anniversaries)

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

15 years (2003)

The Rev. Kirianne Riehl (March 30, 2003 – Presbytery of New York City)
The Rev. Gail Heimberger (October 5, 2003 – Presbytery of Geneva)

20 years (1998)

The Rev. Deborah Grohman (January 24, 1998 – Presbytery of Ohio Valley)
The Rev. Gailey Teller (September 18, 1998 – Presbytery of Lackawanna)
The Rev. Todd Haines (October 18, 1998 – Presbytery of Hudson River)
The Rev. Paul Malles (October 25, 1998 – Presbytery of Chicago)

25 years (1993)

The Rev. Ellen Donnan (July 11, 1993 – Presbytery of Geneva)

30 years (1988)

The Rev. Nancy Bidlespacher (November 27, 1988 – Presbytery of Geneva)
The Rev. Dan McCollister (August 7, 1988 – Presbytery of Geneva)

35 years (1983)

The Rev. Nancy Farrell (August 14, 1983– Presbytery of Chicago)

40 years (1978)

The Rev. Jonathan Knight (February 19, 1978 – Presbytery of Cayuga Syracuse)
The Rev. Susan Husted (November 19, 1978 – Presbytery of Geneva)

50 years (1968)

The Rev. Robert Rochelle (October 5, 1968 – Presbytery of Newton)

Over 50 years

The Rev. Timothy Johnson (**51 years** May 28, 1967 – Presbytery of Lake Huron)
The Rev. Jim Hicks (**52 years**, July 29, 1966 – Presbytery of The Western Reserve)
The Rev. Sam Edwards (**53 years**, May 23, 1965 – Presbytery of Central Washington)
The Rev. Gilmore Creelman (**55 years**, June 18, 1963 – Presbytery of Mahoning)
The Rev. John Valk (**57 years**, October 15, 1961 – Presbytery of Newark)
The Rev. John Elder (**58 years**, May 20, 1960 – Presbytery of Northern New England)
The Rev. Herb Tennes (**59 years**, May 14, 1959)
The Rev. Fred Coffman (**68 years**, July 1, 1950 – Presbytery of Philadelphia)
The Rev. Fred Magley (**70 years**, October 13, 1948 – Presbytery of Newark)

(Welcome to the Presbytery)

Paul Malles, Pastor, welcomed the presbytery on behalf of First Presbyterian Church, Penn Yan.

SERVICE OF WORSHIP

The presbytery entered into a time of worship. Leaders of the service included:

- *The Rev. Paul Malles led the service.*
- *The Rev. Katherine Griffis (Moderator) and the Rev. Kirk Baker (Vice-Moderator) read the Necrology Report, which, where it was possible, included digital presentation of picture of the persons whose names were read.*
- *The Rev. Kirk Baker co-officiated the Lord's Supper, with the Rev. Paul Malles.*

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT

Ellen Reynolds, immediate past Chair of the General Council, presented the report on behalf of Chair John Gingerich, who was absent because of illness.

Prior to presentation of Item #1 below, with the approval of the Moderator, Ellen offered opportunity for questions or clarifications. There were none.

Items in this report are from the December 12, 1017 and January 9, 2018 meetings of the General Council.

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(The Presbytery Office Building)

1. [Acting in its role as the Presbytery Trustees and upon recommendation from the Budget & Finance Committee] **Approve** listing the presbytery office building for sale, through realtor Amanda Glover. [The motion was approved, with one "No" vote from Cindy Weaver, who requested that her vote be recorded.]

Notes / background

- The current mortgage is a little more than \$1,105.00 per month. The list price will be approximately \$250,000.00.
 - In the last few weeks, the presbytery has lost the two tenants. The church group has recently purchased a building for their office/program needs. The Catholic Family Center has not used the space they are renting for more than a year, so have terminated their rental agreement. Both groups gave appropriate notice. [NOTE: The presbytery can have only not-for-profit tenants, or the presbytery's tax status would be jeopardized. Renting to new not-for-profit tenants would likely require some work on the building.]
 - Tim Johnson noted that Amanda Glover was the realtor who sold the building to the Presbytery of Geneva. She predicts that the building will sell, and that the presbytery will realize significant equity from the sale.
 - The presbytery office building does not have full handicap access.
 - "Why does Amanda Glover think the building will sell?"
 - The property is zoned "mixed." The previous owners used the building as **both** a family residence and a business. This has made the presbytery's use of the building awkward, in some cases.
 - Amanda Glover has some creative ideas for marketing the building.
 - What is awkward for us might not be awkward for buyers.
 - The question of "Where do we go after the building sells?" is not the first question, and cannot be answered definitively at the current time. The General Council noted that it may be necessary to recruit a Ministry Team to conduct a search for a new location. The continued work on the Transition will go a long way toward providing an answer to the question. It was noted that even if the building sale should surprise the presbytery, there would be transitional options available for continuing the meet the needs of the presbytery. One member drew attention to the opening devotion, noting that "We have to trust that as it was for Joseph and Mary, there will be a place for us."
2. **Approve** refinancing the mortgage for the presbytery office building through Community Bank, for 10 (ten) years at a rate of no more than 5% per year for the next five years, effective on or about January 1, 2018.

Notes / background

- The refinancing fee is \$100.00 – no appraisal or origination fee.
- The additional monthly cost of the refinanced mortgage will be no more than \$49.00 per month.
- Under the terms of the current mortgage, a balloon payment of approximately \$30,000.00 will come due on May 1, 2018. The refinancing spreads that cost out at good terms and gives time to fulfill the previous action to list the building for sale. Without the proposed refinance, the presbytery would probably own the building on May 15, 2018 and be forced to refinance at a higher fee.
- Five Star Bank could not meet these terms.

(Conduct of Presbytery Meetings)

3. **Affirm** that:
 - The "rules" expressed in *Robert's Rules of Order* are not present for their own sake; they are in support of the **body**.

- The Moderator's authority in guiding the meeting is important. The main role of the Moderator is to preserve the unity of the body. At times the informality of our proceedings serves to limit the ability of the Moderator to function effectively.
 - People must: (1) be recognized by the Moderator before speaking; (2) come to the microphone and address the Moderator, not the body; and (3) introduce her/himself before speaking. These are standards of *Robert's Rules*, and are a discipline which preserves respect, decorum, and order.
 - Only speakers who are presenting reports to the presbytery will be permitted to address the body directly.
4. **Endorse** the following aids to the presbytery:
- The stated clerk and the Transitional Leader will work on a process for orienting first-time commissioners to the presbytery.
 - The stated clerk will prepare a series of "Educational Moments" regarding the conduct of presbytery meetings.
 - The stated clerk and the Transitional Leader will work on ways to support Moderators and Vice-Moderators in their leadership roles.

(Camp Whitman Advisory Committee)

5. **Appoint** a clergy member of the presbytery to fill the vacancy on the Camp Whitman Advisory Committee
6. **Reappoint** the other four members of the Camp Whitman Advisory Committee:
- Phil Opdyke
 - George Poorman
 - Beth Whitbeck
 - Rebecca Cohen

[NOTE: The four members from the Presbytery of Genesee Valley are: Elder Jan Kennedy; the Rev. Colin Pritchard; the Rev. Michelle Sumption; and Elder Diane Hoehner.]

7. **Authorize** the Camp Whitman Advisory Committee to appoint a Chair, who must be a member of the Presbytery of Geneva.
- 8.

Background & Rationale

- The Committee has received documents from previous General Councils, relevant to the work of the Advisory Committee and its predecessors.
- The Advisory Committee is a committee of the General Council, not of the presbytery. Members are appointed, not elected. There is no information or policy regarding terms of Advisory Committee members.
- Who appoints the members to the committee?
- Tom Baily has stepped down from the Advisory Committee, leaving a vacancy on the committee. Currently, there is no chair (who must be from the Presbytery of Geneva) and the Presbytery of Geneva has no clergy person on the committee. [Sarah West was suggested as a possible clergy member. Sarah is a minister in the Disciples of Christ, serving Waterloo; nothing would prohibit her from serving on the Advisory Committee.]

The Transitional Leader noted that the Run River consultants are outstanding, and that Run River "is worth the money we are spending for their work." The future Camp Whitman issues facing the presbytery (which would take at least 4 years to accomplish) are:

- Funding the Camp
- Programming for the Camp
- Improvement of the property
- Changing to an all-season facility (which would take 8 years and \$2 million)

(Attorney / counsel for the presbytery)

9. **Authorize** securing legal counsel for the presbytery, with a retainer to be negotiated.

10. **Authorize** the Council Chair to appoint a Task Force to work on the logistics, including a recommendation for funding. The Task Force will include Tim Johnson, Tom Bailey, and A.J. Tierson (with the Transitional Leader and stated clerk as staff support).

Background & Rationale

The stated clerk raised the question: Would it be in the presbytery's interest to engage an attorney to serve as the presbytery's counsel, with a retainer? The rationale is the recent and current involvement regarding potential dissolution of congregations and/or sale of buildings and other property.

(Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly)

11. **Provide** our General Assembly Commssioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegate with a short-term subscription to the *Presbyterian Outlook*. \$12.50 per month for 6n months). This will provide helpful information for their preparation to serve as commissioners. The *Outlook* has provided this opportunity for the past several years.

ADDITONAL INFORMATION ITEM.

(West Fayette)

Stephen Beals shared with the General Council that the West Fayette congregation recently provided a workshop on addiction. The series of four workshops was offered to the entire community; 25 people attended. One result of the series was the development of a Nar-Anon group in that community.

Stephen encouraged involvement of the Presbytery of Geneva in expanding this sort of work. There is no cost involved in providing the program. He noted that it is something that a church of 20 members can do, with positive results.

The Council discussed opportunities for publicizing the opportunity, and endorsed a write-up for the January presbytery meeting, placement on the presbytery website and the Facebook page, and sharing the opportunity with the Small Church Network.

PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

The presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons:

Committee on Representation – Class of 2020 – the Rev. Bruce Incze (Arkport)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Adrian Tierson and Ellen Donnan, co-chairs, presented the report of the Committee on Ministry.

The following items are from the December 5, 2017; and January 2, 2018 meetings of the Committee.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Romulus, NY)

1. **Grant** original jurisdiction of the Romulus church to the Administrative Commission if and when the congregation runs out of money.
2. **Grant** original jurisdiction of the Romulus church to the Administrative Commission if there ceases to be an active session.

Background & Rationale

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PENN YAN, NY
January 27, 2018**

The Administrative Commission for Romulus is not organized and has not met for some time. The current members of the Commission are:

Elder Stephen Beals, CRE (West Fayette)
The Rev. Nancy Biddlespacher (HR)
Elder Kermit Bossard (Spencer)
Elder Joann Braun (Naples)

The Committee will seek a fifth member for the Commission (a Teaching Elder), and will recommend that person for election by the presbytery.

The stated clerk will convene the next meeting of the Administrative Commission, and will provide orientation and support for their continuing work.

3. **Elect** the Rev. Amy Loving Austin as a member of the Administrative Commission for Romulus.

(Commissioning of Ruling Elders)

4. **Sustain** the examination of Elder Carleen Frost, for commissioning as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.
5. **Approve** commissioning Elder Carleen Frost for service at the Oaks Corners Presbyterian Church, Oaks Corners, NY.
6. **Approve** commissioning Elder Joy Novak to the Pulpit Supply List, with authorization to administer the Service of the Lord's Supper when requested by a session.

The Moderator led the presbytery in the Service of Commissioning for Elder Carleen Frost and Elder Joy Novak. Both persons commissioned responded affirmatively to the Constitutional Questions for Commissioning Ruling Elders.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY

Acting on behalf of presbytery, the Committee VOTED to:

(Moderator Appointment / Romulus)

1. Pending confirmation, **appoint** Elder Stephen Beals, CRE as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Romulus, NY.

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee VOTED to:

(Seminary Indebtedness Policy -- Final)

1. **Approve** the Final version of the *Seminary Indebtedness Policy*. [Attachment A]

(Huron / the Rev. Nancy J. Farrell)

2. **Approve** the Stated Supply Contract (50% time) between the session of Huron Presbyterian Church, Huron, NY and the Rev. Nancy J. Farrell, effective December 6, 2017 at the following terms:

Salary and Housing	8,160.00
Housing	15,840.00
Dental / Medical	1,000.00
Effective Salary	25,000.00

Professional Expense 1,000.00
Travel expenses reimbursed at current IRS mileage rate.
Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays
Study leave: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

3. **Appoint** the Rev. Nancy J. Farrell as moderator of the session of Huron Presbyterian Church, Huron, NY effective December 6, 2017.

(Debt Relief Applications)

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PENN YAN, NY
January 27, 2018**

4. **Approve** the Debt Relief Application (Board of Pensions) for the Rev. Leah, Ntuala (Seneca Falls).
5. **Approve** the Debt Relief Application (Board of Pensions) for the Rev. Sabrina Slater (Spencer)

(Elmira, Westminster / the Rev. Jane Winters)

6. **Approve** the Stated Supply Contract between the session of Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY and the Rev. Jane Winters, effective January 1, 2018 for one year at the following terms:

Worship Service	125.00 per service
Pastoral services	20.00 / hr
Meetings (incl. session	20.00 / hr

Travel expenses reimbursed at current IRS mileage rate.
Vacation: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

(Addison / the Rev. Peter Marr)

7. **Approve** the Stated Supply Contract (1/4 time) between the session of Addison Presbyterian Church, Addison, NY and the Rev. Peter Marr, effective January 1, 2018 for one year at the following terms

Salary and Housing	2,817.93
Housing	3,972.27
Dental / Medical	9,976.80

Study Leave 250.00

Travel expenses reimbursed at current IRS mileage rate.
Vacation: one month, including 4 Sundays
Study leave: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

(East Palmyra / Joshua Baker)

8. **Approve** Temporary Supply Contract between the session of First Presbyterian Church, East Palmyra, NY and Joshua Baker, effective January 1, 2018 for one year at the following terms:

Worship Service	145.00 + mileage
Pastoral services	40.00 / hr + mileage
Meetings (incl. session	40.00 + mileage

Travel expenses reimbursed at current IRS mileage rate.
Vacation: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

9. **Approve** the revisions to the Contract as recommended by Ellen Donnan, Carol Merrill, and Linda Badger-Becker, pending a meeting between Josh Baker and the Committee on Ministry during the February 6, 2018 Committee meeting at the Presbytery Office..

NOTE: The revisions reflect three aspects of polity and civil law:

Josh Baker has no authorization to serve the Lord's Supper.

Josh Baker has no authorization to officiate services of baptism

Josh Baker has no civil authority to officiate weddings

Josh Baker is not actively pursuing ordination through the ELCA; he has an M.Div.degree from CRCDS

(Oaks Corners / Waiver for Pulpit Supply)

10. **Approve** a waiver of the "two Sundays a month requirement so that Susan Frost and Karl Warrington may be allowed to preach on Fifth Sundays.

(Canistota / Michelle Serra)

11. **Approve** development of a Contract between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Canistota, NY and Michelle Serra for service at 3/8 time, with the provisions expressed by the Committee on Ministry.

(Hammondsport)

12. **Approve** the Ministry Information Form and grant permission to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee, pending completion of suggested revisions of the Ministry Information Form,

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Kirk Baker presented the Resolution of Thanks:

On behalf of all those present at the January 27, 2018 meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, I offer sincere thanks and appreciation to the people of the First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan. The sharing of your gifts and resources, your Christian example of hospitality, and your commitment to the personal bonds that speak to our community in Christ, have blessed us as individuals and as a whole.

*In the warmth of Christian fellowship,
The Rev. Kirk Baker.*

The moderator granted personal privilege to Michelle Serra (Almond Union), who offered thanks to the Committee on Ministry for their patience and work toward facilitating the opportunity for her soon to be able to serve with the Canisteo Presbyterian Church as she continues her study at Northeastern Seminary in Rochester.

CLOSING

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

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk

ATTACHMENT A
POLICY ON SEMINARY INDEBTEDNESS
PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA

The Presbytery of Geneva strongly believes that many graduating seminary students enter into their first call with a burden of indebtedness from their seminary education. Indebtedness impairs their ability to function responsibly in ministry. Presbytery of Geneva adopts the following policy on seminary indebtedness for both its own candidates and those recent seminary graduates whom it receives and installs into first calls.

When the Presbytery of Geneva is the Presbytery of Care:

- In order to assess net worth, and to make a plan for financing the cost of seminary, inquirers are required to:
 - attend a Board of Pensions "Fiscal Fitness" workshop held annually at each of the eleven Presbyterian seminaries during inquiry, or
 - meet with the Board of Pensions regional representative or the Presbyterian Foundation representative during inquiry
- The Presbytery of Geneva will share the cost, with the congregation of which the candidate is a member, and the candidate, of attending a Career and Counseling Center for vocational assessment in pursuit of ordination in the Presbyterian Church (USA).

- A designee of the Presbytery's CPM will make available annually the median income for the denomination reported by the Board of Pensions, and the minimum effective salary established by the Presbytery of Geneva.
- The CPM will be an advocate with the congregation of which the inquirer or candidate is a member, and with other congregations of the Presbytery as appropriate, in order to generate financial support for the inquirer or candidate in the form of grants.
- The CPM will make available upon request a list of options for pursuing grants and interest free loans and other funding that may be available through the Financial Aid for Studies Office of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and PC(USA) seminaries.
- The CPM may suggest that Inquirers and Candidates work with a financial advisor on their own to evaluate or anticipate indebtedness and assets.

For Those Ordained to First Calls within the Presbytery the Committee on Ministry shall:

1. Require that any minister who is installed in a first call and who carries educational indebtedness must show evidence of having attended a financial planning workshop, such as the Fiscal Fitness workshop sponsored by the Board of Pensions; or to attend such a workshop within the first year of ministry; expenses for the workshop including registration fees, accommodation, and travel to such a workshop shall be considered legitimate reimbursable expenses from study leave allowance.
2. Encourage calling congregations to utilize further debt reduction as a part of the salary package for a prospective pastor who is a recent seminary graduate. Information about seminary indebtedness, including this policy and the Board of Pensions Seminary Debt Assistance Program, shall be included with the material given to each PNC during its orientation.

**Next Meeting of the Presbytery:
Tuesday March 20, 2018 ~ Location to be confirmed**