

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

VISION STATEMENT
Radiating the light of Christ, the Presbytery of Geneva thrives as a community of servants, lifting up every congregation and leader in ministering together.

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Geneva held a duly-called Stated Meeting on Tuesday May 19, 2018 at Wolcott Presbyterian Church, Wolcott, New York.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK

Call to Order and Opening Worship

The Rev. Katherine Griffis, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:45 a.m., a quorum being present. The Moderator offered the opening prayer. Prior to the meeting, opportunity was given for presbyters to attend one of three 30 minute study sessions: *A Taste of the Presbytery*.

- Orientation of New Commissioners – led by the Rev. Val Fowler, stated clerk
- Congregational Resources: 2018 Season at Camp Whitman – led by Elder Lea Kone, Camp Whitman Director
- Resting in God: Bible Study – led by the Rev. Glenn Kennedy, vice-moderator

The Moderator led the presbytery in a brief opening worship, including the lighting of the Christ Candle and the lighting of Church Candles.

Lighting of the Christ Candle

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

People: *We are your people: Lord by Your grace, You dare to make us Christ to our neighbors of every nation and race.*

Lighting of the Church Candles

Moderator: The Presbytery of Geneva is hereby called to order as we address the business before us.

People: *Called to portray You, help us to live closer than neighbors, open to strangers, able to clash and forgive.*

Men: *Glad of tradition, help us to see in all life's changing where You are leading, where our best efforts should be.*

Woen: *Joined in community, breaking Your bread, may we discover gifts in each other, willing to lead and be led.*

All: *Lord, as we minister in different ways, may all we're doing show that You're living, meeting Your love with our praise. Amen.*

[text: Brian Wren, 1973, © 1975, Hope Publishing, *Presbyterian Hymnal* #436]

Song of Praise: *The Spirit is Descending Like a Dove* [Words and Music by Elder. Stephen Beals, CRE (West Fayette)]
 The Rev. Stephen Beals, bass ~ the Rev. Sabrina Slater, cajon ~ the Rev. Val Fowler, guitar

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 – <i>Bellona Memorial / Seneca, Seneca #9</i>	P	P	Ex		
Baker, Kirk – <i>Newark, Park (Transitional Pastor)</i>	P	Ex	Transfer	04/08/18	
Bhasker, Stanley – <i>Bath, Bath</i>	P	P	A		
Crimmins, Betsey – <i>Elmira, First</i>	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Delhagen, Kyle – <i>Palmyra, Western (RCA, Formula of Agreement)</i>	P	P	A		
Donnan, Ellen – <i>Dundee, First / Junius, Junius</i>	P	P	P		
Griffis, Katherine – <i>Hornell, United</i>	P	P	P		
Grohman, Deb – <i>Ontario, Ontario</i>	A	P	A		
Heimberger, Gail – <i>Sodus, First United</i>	P	P	P		
Incze, Bruce Imre – <i>Arkport</i>	P	P	P		
Kennedy, Glen – <i>Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)</i>	A	P	P		
Kerr, James – <i>Canandaigua, United</i>	A	P	P		

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STATED MEETING
Wolcott Presbyterian Church, Wolcott, NY

Lester, Donald – <i>Howard, Union*</i>	A	A	A		
Lind-Schmitz, Deborah – <i>Geneva, The Presbyterian Church of Geneva</i>	P	P	A		
McDonald, John – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	P	P	Ex		
Malles, Paul – <i>Penn Yan, First</i>	P	Ex	P		
Marr, Peter – <i>Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*</i>	A	A	A		
Mellgard, Rob – <i>Ovid Federated</i>	P	P	P		
Milne, Cara Sutton – <i>Watkins Glen</i>	A	P	P		
Ntuala, Leah – <i>Seneca Falls, First</i>	A	P	Ex		
O’Leary, Lucinda – <i>Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*</i>	A	A	A		
Peeples, Cheryl – <i>Trumansburg, First Ulysses</i>	P	P	P		
Preisendanz, David – <i>Elmira, North</i>	P	P	Ex		
Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	A	P	A		
Slater, Sabrina – <i>Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church</i>	P	P	P		
Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps / United Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P	P	P		
Ugoretz, Jeffrey – <i>Corning, First</i>	A	A	A		
Winters, Jane – <i>Elmira, Westminster (Temp. Supply)</i>	P	P	Ex		
TOTAL PRESENT	17	21	12		
TOTAL EXCUSED	1	3	6		
TOTAL ABSENT	11	4	9		

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) – <i>Interim Pastor, Honeoye Falls, NY</i>	P	Ex	A		
Campbell, Anne (AL)	A	A	A		
Delhagen, Harold (V) – <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	Ex	Ex	A		
Duncan, Russell (V) -- <i>United Church of Salem, Salem, VT (UCC)</i>	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) -- <i>Robinson Memorial PC, Syracuse, NY</i>	P	P	P		
Frank, Aaron (AL)	A	A	A		
Haines, Todd (AL)	A	A	A		
Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A	A	A		
McCollister, Dan (AL)	A	A	A		
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Warrington, Karl (AL)	P	A	P		
Weaver, Cindy (AL)	P	P	P		
TOTAL PRESENT	4	2	3		
TOTAL EXCUSED	3	4	2		
TOTAL ABSENT	5	6	7		

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

Name	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Barnard, David	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Bartel, Joanne	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Coffman, Fred	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Courtney, Philip	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Crego, Peter	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Edwards, Sam	Ex	P	P		
Elder, John	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Farrell, Nancy	Ex	P	Ex		
Flaherty, Scott	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Gerling, Jim	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Gould, John	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Hicks, James	Ex	P	Ex		
Hood, Kenneth	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Husted, Susan	Ex	Ex	Ex		

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Johnson, Timothy	P	P	P		
Karr-Lyon, Beverly	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Kellam, Jeffrey	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Kilgore, David	P	Ex	P		
Knight, Jonathan	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Magley, Fred	Ex	P	Ex		
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Montgomery, Tom	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Murray, Virginia	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Newman, James	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Otterbacher, Suzanne	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Price, Richard	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Rochelle, Robert	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Teller, Gailey	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Tennies, Herb	Ex	Ex	Ex		
Tyrrell, Jamie (<i>Presbytery Treasurer</i>)	Ex	P	Ex		
Valk, John	Ex		Ex		
TOTAL PRESENT	2	6	3		

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

Name	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Badger Becker, Elder Linda -- <i>Transitional Leader (Pby of Genesee Valley)</i>	P	P	P		
Elfond, the Rev. Cheryl Ann -- <i>Elmira, North (Pby of Susquehanna Valley)</i>	A	A	A		
Frigard, the Rev. Beth -- <i>Big Flats (Formula of Agreement – UCC)</i>	A	A	A		
Lostetter, the Rev. Robin – <i>Naples, Trinity (Presbytery of Pittsburgh)</i>	A	A	P		
Schwartz, the Rev. Barbara -- <i>Hector & Lodi (Pby of Susquehanna Valley)</i>	P	P	P		
Stuber, the Rev. Walter -- <i>Wolcott (Pby of Genesee Valley)</i>	A	P	P		
West, Sarah – <i>Waterloo (Disciples of Christ)</i>	A	A	Ex		
TOTAL PRESENT	2	3	4		
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0	1		
TOTAL ABSENT	5	4	2		

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

Name	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Michelle Serra, serving as Temporary Supply at First, Canisteo			P		
The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (<i>Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	P	P	P		
TOTAL PRESENT			2		
TOTAL EXCUSED			0		

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency
The Rev. Carol Wilson	Presbytery of Susquehanna valley
The Rev. Christopher Mergener	Presbytery of Long Island

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 27	Mar 20	May19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Addison, Addison	A	A	A		
Almond Union	A	A	A		
Andover, First	A	A	A		
Arkport , First	A	P	Lance Schroeder		
Atlanta, Atlanta	A	A	A		
Bath, First	A	A	A		

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Benton, Bellona	A	A	A		
Big Flats, First	A	A	A		
Burdett, Burdett	A	A	A		
Canandaigua, United	P	A	A		
Canisteo, Canisteo	A	P	Bob Stephens		
Cohocton, First	A	A	A		
Corning, First	A	A	A		
Dundee, First	Dissolved	12/31/17			
Elmira, First	P	P	Ex		
Elmira, Lake Street	A	A	A		
Elmira, North	P	P	Jeff Richards		
Elmira, Westminster	A	A	A		
Fayette, W. Fayette	A	A	A		
Geneva (1)	P	P	Ed Frick		
Geneva (2)	P	P	Ex		
Hammondsport, First	A	A	A		
Hector, First	P	P	A		
Hornell, United	P	P	Lisa Sanford		
Horseheads, First	A	A	A		
Howard, Howard Union	A	A	A		
Huron, Huron	A	A	A		
Ithaca, First	A	P	Gail Farnham		
Jasper, Jasper	A	A	A		
Junius, Junius	P	P	Kristine Ward		
Lodi, Lodi	A	A	Susan Frost		
Lyons, First	A	P	A		
Marion, United	P	P	A		
Moreland, Moreland	A	A	A		
Naples, Trinity Fed.	P	P	A		
Newark, Park	A	P	P (name not recorded)		
Oaks Corners	P	P	Mae Schweickhard		
Ontario, First	A	A	A		
Ovid Federated	A	P	Judy Mellgard		
Painted Post, United	A	A	A		
Palmyra, East Palmyra	A		A		
Palmyra, Western	P	P	A		
Penn Yan, First	P	P	Sue Goodrich		
Phelps, United	A	A	Nan Clark		
Prattsburg, First	A	A	A		
Pulteney, First	P	P	A		
Red Creek	P	P	A		
Rock Stream	P	P	A		
Romulus	P	A	Dissolved	04/04/18	
Seneca Falls, First	A	A	A		
Seneca, Seneca #9	A	A	A		
Shortsville, First	A	A	Alicia Alvarez		
Sodus, First United	A	A	A		
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	P	P	A		
Trumansburg, First of Ulysses	P	P	Carol McCloed		
Waterloo, First	A	A	A		
Watkins Glen, First	A	P	A		
Weston, Weston	A	A	A		
Williamson	A	Dismissed	01/27/18		
Wolcott	P	P	Carol Merrell		
TOTAL PRESENT	20	25	16		
TOTAL EXCUSED	0	0	2		
TOTAL ABSENT	39	32	39		

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ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS
 (Appointed by presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept25	Nov 17
Anderson, Rob	Penn Yan	222 nd GA Commissioner	A	P	P		
Baker, Phoebe		Nominating	P	P	P		
Bailey, Tom	Spencer	Budget & Finance		P	P		
Beals, Steven	West Fayette	CRE / Personnel	P	P	P		
Braun, Joann	Naples, Fed	Past Moderator	P	P	P		
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	P	Ex	P		
Colvin, Donna	Pulteney	Synod Commissioner	A	A	P		
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A	A	A		
Frost, Carleen	Oaks Corners	CRE	P	A	P		
Gingerich, John	Wolcott	CRE / Council Chair	P	P	P		
Novack, Joy	Romulus	CRE	P	A	Romulus dissolved		
Peek, Donald	Canisteo	CRE	P	Retired			
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE		A	A		
Schied, Dick	Weston	CRE	P	P	Deceased		
Werts, Linda		P.W. President	P	P	P		
TOTAL PRESENT			10	8	10		
TOTAL EXCUSED			0	1	0		
TOTAL ABSENT			3	5	2		

REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)
 Includes CREs not serving churches

Lea Kone	Director, Camp Whitman
Stephanie	Newark, Park
Elizabeth Long	Newark, Park
Bonnie Bertino	Newark, Park
Deb Compher	Newark, Park
John Donaldson	Newark, Park
Paul Salisbury	Newark, Park
Bob Hanson	Newark, Park
Sandy Macomy	Newark, Park
Cheryl Lotz	Newark, Park
The Rev. Charles Emerson	Almond Union
Linda Daggert	Almond Union
Noted, but no name	Almond Union
Noted, but no name	Almond Union
Ellen Reynolds	Member, General Council

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 27	Mar 20	May 19	Sept 25	Nov 17
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	25	31	21		
Total Elder Commissioners Present	30	35	26		
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+5	+4	+5		
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused**	21	14	18		
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders***	39	32	40		
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	23	18	33		
Total Registered Visitors	4	2	15		
Total Registered Attendance****	66	68	63		

* 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

Opening Business: "The Presbytery of Geneva lives...." Part 1
(Declaration of a Quorum)

The stated clerk confirmed that a quorum is present for the meeting.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The presbytery VOTED to approve the docket for the meeting:

- 9:00 a.m. Gathering for Fellowship & Learning**
9:00 a.m. Registration & Fellowship Time (through 9:45)
9:15 a.m. Optional Learning Sessions – *A Taste of the Presbytery*
- 9:45 a.m. Gathering for Shared Work**
9:45 a.m. Call to Order & Opening Worship
- 9:50 a.m. Opening Business: "The Presbytery of Geneva lives...." Part 1
Declaration of a Quorum
The presbytery is the council serving as a corporate expression of the church within a certain district and is composed of all the congregations and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within that district. Congregations are represented at presbytery meetings by ruling elders elected by sessions as commissioners.
(Book of Order G-3.0301)
- The Presbytery of Geneva is composed of 57 congregations and 73 ministers of the Word and Sacrament. A quorum consists of three ruling elders from three different churches and three ministers of Word and Sacrament.*
- Consent Agenda: Enrollment of Corresponding Members, privilege of the floor, approval of Docket
Welcome of New Elder Commissioners
Welcome from the Host Church
Appoint composer of a *Resolution of Thanks*
- 10:00 a.m. Business Related to Congregations and Leaders: "... to support and equip congregations and leaders..."
The presbytery is to serve as pastor, counselor, and advisor to its pastors and congregations.
(Book of Order, G-3.0307; see all of G-3.03 for details)
- Good News from the Churches
General Council, Part 1 – Elder John Gingerich (Wolcott), Chair of General Council
Almond Union of Churches
Administrative Commissions
Dundee, First – the Rev. Paul Malles (Penn Yan)
Romulus – Elder Kermit Bossard (Spencer)
Elmira, Westminster – Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)
Committee on Ministry – the Rev. Ellen Donnan and the Rev. Adrian Tierson, co-chairs
Recognition of Ministry for the Rev. Kirk Baker and the Rev. Sarah West
Recognition of Honorable Retirement for the Rev. Jim Kerr (Canandaigua, United)
Hymn: *God Himself is With Us*
Examination of the Rev. Robin Lostetter, transferring from Pittsburgh Presbytery
Examination of the Rev. Carol Wilson, transferring from Susquehanna Valley Presbytery
Examination of the Rev. Christopher Mergener, transferring from Long Island Presbytery; called to Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY
Other news and action items
Small Church Network report: Junius
Committee on Preparation for Ministry – Elder John Gingerich (Wolcott), chair
Presentation of Alicia Alvarez as Inquirer
General Council, Part 2 – Elder Linda Badger Becker (Transitional Leader) and Elder Rob Anderson (Penn Yan)
Recognition of Elder Sue Goodrich
Hymn: *The Call to be God's People*
- 11:30 a.m. Business related to Mission: "... to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the world."
April West Virginia Mission Trip – Elder Paul Salisbury (Newark)
Camp Whitman – Elder Lea Kone, Camp Director
Committee on Representation – the Rev. Bruce Incze (Arkport)
Presbyterian Women – Elder Linda Werts (Newark), moderator

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Presbytery Nominating committee – Elder Phoebe Baker (Penn Yan)
Committee on Mission Grants – Linda Werts (Newark)
General Council, Part 3 – The Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell), moderator of presbytery
Commissioning representatives to Synod (to be elected); and General Assembly Commissioners
General Assembly: The Rev. Glenn Kennedy (Painted Post)
Elder Linda Werts (Newark)
YAAD, Cherokee Lane (Palmyra, Western)

Synod: The Rev. Rob Mellgard (Ovid)
Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)
YAAD, Kari Starweski (Huron)

12:15 p.m. LUNCH

1:00 p.m. Presbytery Reconvenes – Vice-moderator the Rev. Glenn Kennedy (Painted Post)
Internal Business: "The Presbytery of Geneva lives" Part 2
Presbytery Transitional Leader – Elder Linda Badger Becker
Stated Clerk's Report – The Rev. Val Fowler
Approval of Minutes: Stated Meeting of March 20, 2018
Called Meeting of April 4, 2018
Budget & Finance / Treasurer – Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer)
General council, part 4 – additional news and acts

The Candles: Time of Individual Silence and Reflection / Prelude

1:45 p.m. **Gathering for Worship and Sending**
Presbytery Worship Service

Closing Matters
Resolution of Thanks
Additional announcements
Extinguishing of candles
Adjournment and Benediction

ENROLLMENT OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

The presbytery VOTED to enroll the following persons as Corresponding Members:
The Rev. Carol Wilson (Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley)
The Rev. Christopher Mergener (Presbytery of Long Island)

PRIVILEGE OF VOICE

The presbytery VOTED to:

1. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will be making or participating in reports to this meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva.
2. **Grant** privilege of voice specifically to persons from the Almond Union of Churches, and from Park Presbyterian Church, Newark.

WELCOME OF NEW ELDER COMMISSIONERS

The presbytery welcomed new and first-time elder commissioners from the following congregations:
Newark, Park Shortsville Arkport Ulysses of Trumansburg

WELCOME FROM THE HOST CHURCH

The Rev. Walter Stuber welcomed the presbytery, on behalf of Wolcott Presbyterian Church. He noted that the pulpit Bible survived the 1999 fire, and shows evidence of the smoke and water damage. It happens that on this day, the Bible is open to I Kings 19, describing how Elijah observed a wildfire from his hiding place.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Moderator appointed Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) to prepare a *Resolution of Thanks*, to be presented at the end of the meeting.

Business Related to Congregations and Leaders: "...to support and equip congregations and leaders...."

GOOD NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

The moderator called for brief expression of good news in the lives of churches in the Presbytery of Geneva.

- **Hector & Lodi** – Lodi hosts a weekly community food pantry: *Food for All*. The church recently received a grant of \$16,000 from the Rochester Health Network, which will provide for expansion of the pantry.
- **West Fayette** – The church has many activities planned in the coming months: a Pork Barbecue; the annual Strawberry Festival; a Veteran's Day worship and memorial; a Community Advent Carol Sing on December 2. And . . . by the end of the year, the church will have a new roof.
- **Arkport** – The church held a healing service last October, and has celebrated the blessings that have flowed since the service. The church held another healing service in April.
- **Canisteo** – Celebrates the service of Michelle Serra as Temporary Supply. Since February 1, 2018 worship attendance has grown from 19 to 33. The congregation will partner with their neighboring Methodist church to hold joint worship services on the Sundays when the pastors are away.
- **Geneva** – On July 22, 2018 the congregation will celebrate its 220th anniversary, which is also the anniversary of the presence of Presbyterian witness and ministry in the Geneva area.
- **Canandaigua** – Celebrates its largest confirmation class in many years: 18 confirmands will be confirmed tomorrow. As the church is a united Presbyterian and Baptist congregation, 8 of the confirmands will be confirmed with immersion baptism.
- **Penn Yan** – Has an updated nursery. The offering received during a recent *Cinco de Mayo* celebration will go to ministries in the Canandaigua community. The congregation created a "can sculpture" for a recent food drive, and received a prize for the sculpture.
- **Red Creek** – The congregation has received new members, and also will be celebrating the first wedding in years.
- **Naples** – The congregation has received several new members.
- **Newark** – Hosting a chicken barbeque on June 9.
- **Transitional Leader** – Linda Badger Becker celebrated that she has visited all 58 churches of the presbytery.

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT, Part 1

John Gingerich, Chair, presented the report of the General Council.

After presentation of the motion from the General Council, and discussion on the motion, the presbytery VOTED to:

(Almond Union of Churches)

1. **Dissolve** the congregation of the Almond Union of Churches, so that the church may be free to reincorporate as an American Baptist Church or as a community church.

Background and Rationale

The above motion was considered by the General Council at the request of the presbytery leader and the stated clerk.

The Transitional Leader and the stated clerk met with the Council of the Almond Union of Churches, Almond, NY, on Monday April 9, 2018. Two days before that meeting the Transitional leader was informed that the church was holding a congregation meeting on Sunday April 8, 2018 for the purpose of voting on a motion to "disaffiliate from the Presbyterian Church USA."

Immediately after being welcomed to the meeting with the church Council, the Transitional Leader informed those present that she and the stated clerk were aware of the previous day's congregational meeting and the action taken. The stated clerk informed the participants that under the provisions of the *Book of Order*, the presbytery had only one option for assisting their desire to disaffiliate, and the option is to dissolve the congregation. Presbyteries may dismiss congregations **only** to other Reformed denominations. He explained that in order for the congregation to accomplish its desire, under New York State Religious Corporation Law,

the church would have to close as the Almond Union of Churches and re-incorporate as either an American Baptist Church or as a Community Church. The persons present affirmed that the latter is their desire.

The Transitional Leader shared the history of the Almond Union of Churches, whose initial founding was during George Washington's presidency. Since 1918, the church has been Baptist/Presbyterian. In the 1970s the church approached the presbytery about disaffiliating to become a community church, and that request was denied. The outcome was that the church remained Presbyterian/Baptist, but functioned as a community church.

The current pastor, Charles Emerson, was installed as pastor in March, without the knowledge of the Presbytery of Geneva and with acquiescence by the American Baptist Church. The Rev. Emerson is neither Baptist nor Presbyterian (but was a child of the Almond church). The mission contributions of the congregation are handled through the American Baptist Church.

The Transitional Leader and the stated clerk shared their rationale for the proposed motion.

- Whether or not the congregation has disaffiliated from the PCUSA in fact, the congregation spiritually and emotionally disaffiliated a long time ago. There has been a relationship: the church hosted presbytery 10 or 12 years ago; the church has been involved in the current cluster of area Presbyterian churches; and four presbytery representatives (Rob Anderson, Kirk Baker, Jim Varner, and Val Fowler) visited with the Church Council in 2015, at the request of the Council arising from concerns over actions of the General Assembly). The stated clerk noted that the church has not participated in any presbytery meeting since June 2014 and likely for some years prior to his beginning service.
- Any negotiation/litigation over financial payment or property ownership will be expensive, and the financial return would likely not be significantly more than the cost.
- The energy that such action would take on the part of the presbytery and its representatives would be energy drawn from the visioning and planning, and the renewed sense of hope and community in the presbytery, currently.
- Likely, the last thing the presbytery needs right now is another building to maintain and sell.
- To engage in a lengthy process over back per-capita and/or the ownership of the building would reduce or eliminate a sense of good will on the part of area churches, including Presbyterian Churches.
- Sometimes it is best simply to "say goodbye" and trust God for the future.

During the discussion, the following questions were asked:

- Why dissolve the church? *The Book of Order does not provide for dismissal of churches to non-Reformed denominations or to independence. If a church wishes to move to independence or to a non-reformed body, the only option for a presbytery is to dissolve the congregation.*
- Why not take steps to deal with the property, which is historically Presbyterian? *It will cost to pursue ownership of the property (in legal fees and human time/energy). Is that cost worth bearing at this time? And, should we prevail, does the presbytery need yet another building to manage and to sell? Moreover, engaging in conflict over the property will likely cost a lot of good will in the area surrounding the congregation.*
- Would some churches view this action as a way of avoiding per-capita? *The issue of per-capita was not at all a factor in the Almond church desiring to "disaffiliate." The desire to become a community church is a driving factor. Should current presbytery churches contemplate avoiding the cost of per capita by leaving, that would have to be addressed by the General Council and the Committee on Ministry.*
- Could we request that there be a service of dismissal, honoring the relationship that has been in place for over 128 years? *Yes, absolutely.*
- Is this a result of neglecting this church for years? *Perhaps. But the Almond church has been connected in a number of ways. In 2015, in response to a letter from the Almond Council expressing concern and disaffection, four three persons from the presbytery and the stated clerk visited the Council: Jim Varner, Rob Anderson, and Kirk Baker, in addition to the stated clerk. The Almond church has participated in events of that area cluster, including presence at the joint worship service held in*

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2016. There has been recent contact. If there was neglect in the past, there have been ample attempts to relate in a different manner.

The General Council VOTED to:

1. **Request** the presbytery to dissolve the Almond Union of Churches, Almond, NY effective May 20, 2018, so that the church may be free to re-incorporate as an American Baptist Church or as a community church. [The vote on this particular motion was not unanimous; two members of the General Council voted against the motion.]
2. **Request** the Almond Union of Churches prayerfully to consider—in honor and respect for a connection that spans well over 150 years—making a donation to a mission of the Presbyterian Church (USA). [Two particular suggestions for such a donation are: (1) a gift to the One Great Hour of Sharing; or (2) a gift to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance; or a PCUSA mission project.]
3. **Request** that the Council of the Almond Union of Churches work with persons of the Presbytery of Geneva to develop and host a Service of Dissolution, either before or soon after the May 19, 2018 presbytery meeting. The service would celebrate our continued unity in the bonds of Jesus Christ, our shared faith and ministry, and hopes for God's grace and peace as both the church and the presbytery continue their journeys of faith.

The Rev. Charles Emerson, pastor of the Almond Union of Churches, and Board Clerk Linda Daggert spoke to the presbytery regarding the congregation's decision and ministry.

Following the vote, Moderator Katherine Griffis led the presbytery in prayer.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

(Dundee, First)

Paul Malles, Chair of the Commission, presented a report from the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Dundee, NY.

On June 2, 2018, opportunity will be given for persons to take items of church property prior to the sale of the building.

In consultation with the realtor, the Administrative Commission approved reducing the asking price for the building to just under \$100,000.

The Administrative Commission is working on the stewardship of the historic cemetery owned by the church. They hope to have resolution of that issue soon, with transfer of the cemetery's ownership.

The Dundee Historical Society has taken several items of historical significance, and the Commission is thankful that the church will be thus recognized as part of the town's history.

All financial records of the Dundee Church have been placed in the presbytery office, and are available for review.

(Romulus)

Stephen Beals presented a report from the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Romulus, NY.

No specific actions have been taken regarding the sale of the building. There has been some interest in the building, including multiple visits from interested parties. There have been no firm offers on the building.

Items that are for sale (with pictures) can be found on <http://westfayettechurch.com>.

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(Elmira, Westminster)

Elder Jeff Richards presented a report from the Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY.

The facility has been listed with a realtor as commercial property. The building is 100% handicapped-accessible and the property has significant land.

The session voted not to have summertime worship. Services may resume in the fall. Members of the church have been visiting worship and activities of the other Presbyterian churches in Elmira.

The Administrative Commission meets next Friday.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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

(Recognition of Ministry – the Rev. Kirk Baker)

The presbytery recognized the ministry of the Rev. Kirk Baker, who most recently served as Transitional Pastor for Park Presbyterian Church, Newark. The Rev. Baker is now serving the First Presbyterian Church in Honeoye Falls, NY. The Rev. Tierson noted that the Rev. Baker was invited to serve as Transitional Pastor by the Administrative Commission which at the time had original jurisdiction of the work of the church session. He brought the congregation to the point of having a fully-serving session and a renewed ministry.

(Recognition of Ministry – the Rev. Sarah West)

The presbytery recognized the ministry of the Rev. Sarah West (a minister member of the Disciples of Christ), who served as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, NY. Sarah has accepted a call to serve a Disciples of Christ congregation in Ohio.

(Celebration of Honorable Retirement – the Rev. Jim Kerr)

The presbytery VOTED to:

1. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Jim Kerr (Canandaigua, United), effective August 1, 2018

The presbytery celebrated the long ministry of the Rev Jim Kerr with the United Church of Canandaigua, NY. Members of the congregation spoke to the Rev. Kerr's ministry. The Rev Kerr received a Certificate of Honorable Retirement. The Moderator led a brief *Service of Retirement*, which concluded with singing one of the Jim Kerr's favorite hymns: *God Himself is With Us*.

(Examination and Transfer of Membership – the Rev. Carol Wilson, HR)

The presbytery examined the Rev. Carol Wilson (a minister member of the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley) for membership in the presbytery of Geneva. The Rev. Wilson provided a brief biographical statement and a statement of faith.

The presbytery VOTED to:

1. **Sustain** the examination for membership.
2. **Request** the transfer of membership of the Rev. Carol Wilson, HR to the Presbytery of Geneva from the Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley, effective May 19, 2018.

(Examination and Transfer of Membership – the Rev. Robin Lostetter, HR)

The presbytery examined the Rev. Robin Lostetter (a minister member of the Presbytery of Pittsburgh) for membership in the presbytery of Geneva. The Rev. Lostetter provided a brief biographical statement and a statement of faith.

The presbytery VOTED to:

1. **Sustain** the examination for membership.
2. **Request** the transfer of membership of the Rev. Robin Lostetter to the Presbytery of Geneva from the Presbytery of Pittsburgh, effective May 19, 2018.

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(Park Presbyterian Church / The Rev. Christopher Mergener)

The presbytery examined the Rev. Christopher Mergener (a minister member of the Presbytery of Long Island) for membership in the Presbytery of Geneva. The Rev. Mergener provided a brief biographical statement and a statement of faith.

The presbytery VOTED to:

1. **Sustain** the examination of the Rev. Christopher Mergener for membership in the Presbytery of Geneva.
2. **Approve** the call of Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY to the Rev. Christopher Mergener as Pastor, effective June 1, 2018, at the following terms:

Cash Salary	31,000.00
Housing Allowance	24,000.00
Total Effective Salary	55,000.00

SECA offset	8,415.00
Major Medical (PCUSA)	15,854.00
Pension (PCUSA)	6,976.00
Death & Disability	634.00
Travel Allowance	4,500.00

Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays

Full and reasonable moving expenses (based on 3 bids)

NOTE: This call fulfills the church's AA/EEOC requirements of the PCUSA.

The congregation meeting was held on April 22, 2018 and was moderated by the Rev. Ellen Donnan.

3. **Request** transfer of the Rev. Christopher Mergener from the Presbytery of Long Island to the Presbytery of Geneva, effective June 1, 2018.
4. **Appoint** the Rev. Christopher Mergener as moderator of the session of Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY effective June 1, 2018.

(Chinese Christian Fellowship)

5. **Dissolve** the Administrative Commission for the Chinese Christian Fellowship, with thanks.

Background & Rationale:

The original motion, approved by the Committee on Ministry during the April meeting, did not include the words "if the way be clear."

A meeting has been scheduled between the Transitional Leader, the Pastor of the Painted Post Presbyterian Church, and the pastor and representatives of the Chinese Christian Fellowship. On that day, the Transitional leader will attend worship with both the Presbyterian Church and the Chinese Christian Fellowship, with a lunch and the conversation to follow. A part of the conversation will be the desires of the Chinese Christian Fellowship as they move forward.

If the Chinese Christian Fellowship has no desire eventually to become a PCUSA congregation, then there is no need for the Administrative Commission. The Administrative Commission has not met for three years, and—due to moves and resignations—the Administrative Commission now has only two members: Elder Dick Schied, CRE and the Rev. Glenn Kennedy. The planned conversation will determine if the above motion needs to be enacted, hence the qualification, "If the way be clear." The above meeting will occur after the May 19, 2018 presbytery meeting.

In light of the plans for that meeting and conversation, the Committee on Ministry VOTED to add the words, "If the way be clear" to the motion approved in April.

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The stated clerk honored the ministry and service of Elder Dick Schied, CRE, who died on Tuesday May 1, 2018 at the end of a long day of service (a meeting of the Administrative Commission for Romulus; a meeting of the Small Church Network; and a meeting of the Committee on Ministry). The presbytery celebrated the many ways that Dick served the presbytery, and the impact he had on many lives. The stated clerk offered prayer, especially for the Weston and Hammondsport congregations whom Dick served.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY

Acting on behalf of presbytery, the Committee VOTED to:

(Moderator Appointment / Elmira, Lake Street)

1. **Appoint** the Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz as moderator of the session of Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY, effective March 3, 2018.

(Moderator & Supervising Pastor / Canisteo)

2. **Appoint** the Rev. Katherine Griffis as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Canisteo, NY; and as Supervising Pastor for Michelle Serra.

(Appointment of Moderator)

3. **Appoint** the Rev. Karl Warrington as moderator of the session of Oaks Corners Presbyterian Church, Oaks Corners, NY effective May 1, 2018.

(The Rev. Kirk Baker / Membership Transfer)

4. **Approve** the transfer of membership of the Rev. Kirk Baker from the Presbytery of Geneva to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley effective May 1, 2018.

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

(Newark, Park / The Rev. Ellen Donnan)

1. **Approve** a Temporary Contract (50% time) between the session of Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, NY and the Rev. Ellen Donnan, effective March 22, 2018 for six months, at the following terms (expressed **monthly**):

Salary	1,100.00
Housing allowance	1,200.00

Social security offset	175.95
Pension/Medical	per Board of Pensions

Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile
Study leave time (6 months): 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Vacation (6 months): Two weeks, including 2 Sundays

(Sexual Misconduct Polity Response Team)

2. **Approve** the recommendations of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Response Team:
 - The Rev. John McDonald will remain a member of the Presbytery of Geneva until such time that the Committee on Ministry is convinced that he has had appropriate counseling sessions and is ready to resume ministry, to be determined by reports from his counselor(s) to the Committee on Ministry.
 - The Rev. John McDonald will not be allowed to circulate his Personal Information Form until the Committee on Ministry gives permission.
 - The Rev. John McDonald will attend (mandatory) the Davidson College Counseling Center for an intensive time of counseling, to be completed by September 30, 2018. Payment for this is to be split in the following manner: 1/3 from the presbytery/COM; 1/3 from funds in the package that Ithaca, First is providing John for counseling; and 1/3 from John.
 - On-going counseling sessions twice a month, to begin in April 2018, with regular reports to COM from the counselor regarding John's progress.

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3. **Direct** the stated clerk to quote the above approved recommendations in any response to a request for change of presbytery membership of the Rev. John McDonald.
4. **Direct** the Transitional Leader to quote the above approved recommendations in any response to a reference request.
5. **Direct** the Committee on Ministry co-chairs and the Committee on Ministry Liaison to Ithaca, First to quote the above approved recommendations in any responses for information or reference regarding the Rev. John McDonald.

Ellen Donnan described the work of the Sexual Misconduct Policy Response Team, who have been working with First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY since the beginning of March. The Team was formed out of the request of the Pastor and the Personnel Committee of the church, for assistance from the Committee on Ministry.

(Board of Pensions Loan Assistance Program / the Rev. Sabrina Slater)

6. **Endorse** the application of the Rev. Sabrina Slater for the Board of Pensions Loan Assistance Program.

(Ithaca, First / the Rev. Cindy Weaver)

7. **Approve** the Temporary Supply Covenant (50% time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Ithaca, NY and the Rev. Cindy Weaver, effective April 4, 2018 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	16,226.00
Housing Allowance	8,736.00
Social Security Offset	1,910.00
Auto, cell, and hospitality	1,000.00
Book allowance	500.00
Pension/medical	13,995.00
Dental Coverage	222.00
Study Leave	1,250.00

Study leave time: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

Vacation time: 28 days, including 4 Sundays

(Hector / Mission Statement)

5. **Approve** the Mission Statement of First Presbyterian Church, Hector, NY; and after the approval of the Committee's review and approval of the Mission Statement of Lodi Presbyterian Church, Lodi, NY, **grant permission** for the churches, jointly, to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

(Annual reports of Commissioned Ruling Elders)

6. **Receive** Annual Reports from the following Commissioned Ruling Elders:
Bob Sell
Dick Evans
Priscilla Andrews

(Lodi – Mission Statement)

7. **Approve** the Mission Statement for Lodi Presbyterian Church, Lodi, NY; and to **grant permission** for the Hector and Lodi churches, together, to elect a Pastor Nominating Committee.

(Big Flats / Ministry Information Form)

8. **Approve** the Ministry Information Form for First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY for certification and for distribution through Church Leadership Connection.

(Big Flats / Interim Pastor Covenant)

9. **Approve** the new Interim Pastor Covenant (50% time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY and the Rev. Beth Frigard.

- This action comes at the request of the Rev. Beth Frigard, with the concurrence of the session.
- The Ministry Information Form reflects the call for a half-time Pastor. The current Interim Pastor Covenant is a full-time covenant. The new Interim Pastor Contract reflects that move from full-time to half-time and matches a request from the Interim Pastor to consider such a change.

(Canandaigua / Ministry Information Form)

10. **Approve** the Ministry Information Form for the United Church of Canandaigua, Canandaigua, NY for certification and for distribution through Church Leadership Connection.

(The Rev. David Kilgore / Gates Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY)

11. **Approve** the service of the Rev. David Kilgore, HR as Temporary Supply for Gates Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY for 2 – 3 months, during the sabbatical of the church's pastor.

(The Rev. Bruce Incze / 12=18 Month Review)

12. **Receive** the report of the 12-18 month review for the Rev. Bruce Incze, Pastor of Arkport Presbyterian Church, Arkport, NY. The review was conducted by Elder Dick Schied, CRE.

(Level 1 Interim Pastor Training / the Rev. Cheryl Peeples)

13. **Endorse** the participation of the Rev. Cheryl Peeples in Level 1 Interim Pastor Training at Montreat Conference Center August 26-31, 2018. [NOTE: Committee on Ministry endorsement is required for participation in Interim Pastor Training.]

(Liaison Reports)

14. **Receive** the Liaison Reports for the following churches:

Pulteney (Priscilla Andrews)
Huron (Gail Heimberger)
Red Creek (Gail Heimberger)

(Review of COM Liaison Assignments)

15. The most recent liaison assignments are **Attachment A**.

(Small Church Network – A Report from a Small Church)

Elder Kristine Ward spoke concerning the ministry of First Presbyterian Church, Junius, NY. The church was founded in 1820 as a worshiping center for the agricultural community. Current worship attendance is 10-16 persons who remain enthusiastic about ministry. The church's desire is to continue faithfully to worship God and to grow, while nurturing the diversity of the church and its presence in the community.

Recently the church engaged in coaching, under the leadership of the Rev. Betsey Crimmins. The result of that work is that the church clearly wants to be a center of the community. The church has been asking, "How do we make the best use of the space we have?"

- Plans are in the works to host an exercise class.
- Other such possibilities are a once-a-month book club; offering art classes.
- The congregation/session is considering selling the church organ.
- The congregation/session are considering sale of the church pews, to create a more flexible, open, and interactive worship space. Interactive worship has become a value of the congregation.
- The church is planning to offer monthly pot-luck suppers as a way of facilitating community.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

John Gingerich, chair, presented the report.

He introduced Alicia Alvarez (a member of the Shortsville Presbyterian Church, a graduate of Colgate Rochester Crozer Divinity School, and Office Administrator for the Presbytery of Geneva) as the newest Inquirer under care of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry.

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GENERAL COUNCIL, Part 2

The council shared a celebration of the long years of service by Elder Sue Goorich, a member of First Presbyterian Church, Penn Yan.

Elder Rob Anderson introduced Sue Goodrich, and shared with the presbytery some highlights of her long service to the Church:

- Sue was ordained as a Ruling Elder in the Penn Yan church in 1970.
- She graduated from Keuka College in 1954 and worked for a time in the Admissions Department (ironically, during the tenure of a president who did not affirm female administrative leadership).
- She came to the Penn Yan church in 1964.
- When she was ordained as a Ruling Elder in 1070, she immediately volunteered to be the elder commissioner to the Presbytery of Geneva.

Transitional Leader Linda Badger Becker celebrated Sue's gifts of ministry within the wider church:

- In the early 1980's Sue became an Interim Associate Presbytery Executive – one of the very few Ruling Elders to be in such a position.
- In 1983, Sue was elected Presbytery Executive of Homestead Presbytery, and became the first Ruling Elder in the history of the Presbyterian Church to serve as a Presbytery Executive.
- The hymn that we will sing shortly was commissioned for the Service of Installation in May 1983.

Sue Goodrich asked for a moment of personal privilege:

“What a wonderful bunch of rascals! Thank you for sustaining me all these years.”

Linda Badger Becker celebrated the history-making women in the Church, and noted that Sue's service has been an inspiration and encouragement to women ruling elders, of whom Linda is one. Linda presented a card and a gift on behalf of the presbytery.

The presbytery joined in singing the hymn *The Call to Be God's People*, written by Jane Parker Huber for Sue's installation in 1983.

Business Related to Mission: “...to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the world...”

APRIL WEST VIRGINIA MISSION TRIP

Elder Paul Salisbury offered a report of the recent Mission Trip to West Virginia.

The mission trips began in 2001, under the leadership of the Rev. Fred Magley. The ministry provides repairs to homes of poor, elderly, and/or disabled persons in Summerville, West Virginia. Elder Salisbury presented a verbal and visual account of the April 2018 Mission Trip. He noted that the trips are open to all who are interested, and encouraged persons to sign up for the Septembers 16-22, 2018 trip.

CAMP WHITMAN

Elder Lea Kone, Director of Camp Whitman presented a report of the upcoming camping season.

The focus of the 2018 summer program will be “Sabbath Practices.” This focus takes seriously that many of the camp participants do not regularly participate in worship, because many churches offer concurrent worship and church school. The summer focus is designed to lessen the distance between the sanctuary and the Sunday school room; between worship and learning.

The focus will lift up five commonalities of spiritual practice:

Hospitality Prayer Service Retreat Story-telling

These practices fit very well with a camping experience. Camp Whitman's focus will be part of a national pilot program through the Program Agency of the Presbyterian Church USA.

The Camp has a new caretaker (Mel) and a new assistant caretaker (Rob).

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The Camp now has new signage for the labyrinth and the waterfront . . . funded by the United Church of Canandaigua and built by the participants in the Lagom Landing ministry in Springwater, NY.

Registrations are up in both the Traditional and the Pine Camp programs. However . . . so far, registrations are very low for the Confirmation Camp opportunity and for the Mission Trip Base Camp opportunity. This area of the camps ministry is in need of partnership and encouragement on the part of congregations.

FUTURE activity includes:

- Continuing long-term discernment through the expertise of Run River Associates, who have been extremely helpful to this point, and will continue to be.
- Core process planning
- The gift from the Penn Yan church is being used to conduct a full site assessment and a report to the presbytery; and a full and accurate appraisal of the camp property.

Ways to be involved:

- Send kids to camp!
- Provide scholarship support so all young persons may have the opportunity.
- Sponsor youth for the Confirmation Camp.
- Serve as a chaplain (there is a need for weeks 1, 5, and 6)
- Contribute to the camp Scholarship Fund.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

The Rev. Bruce Incze presented the report of the Committee on Representation. He offered appreciation for the Moderator's letter and for the link provided in the letter. The link includes resources for the current Mental Health Month, including 10 books and 10 movie descriptions. These resources are available on the presbytery website, and includes "bonus material."

The work of the Committee is motivated by the presbytery's Purpose Statement. He noted that in this period of re-creating the Committee on Representation, "We are building the plane as we are flying it." All constructive feedback (including critical feedback) is welcome and encouraged . . . and will be helpful to the Committee's work.

The Committee will continue to provide resources for future national monthly focuses.

The Committee is working on providing resources for "Having Healthy Conversations About Difficult Issues."

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Linda Werts presented the report of the Presbyterian Women of Geneva Presbytery.

The Spring Gathering was held at the Watkins Glen church, and was well-attended and well-received.

The new Presbyterian Women Directory has been published and copies are available during this meeting.

Virginia Champlin is seeking opportunities to visit congregations, to share her experience last fall during the Global Women's Exchange held in Indonesia.

PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

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

The presbytery VOTED to elect the following persons, as presented by the Presbytery Nominating Committee:

Synod Commissioners, Class of 2019

The Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls)
The Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell)
Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)

Synod Young Adult Advisory Delegate (YAAD)

Henry Augustine (Geneva)

Member of Synod Mission & Ministry Commission, Class of 2019
Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)

Ordination Exam Readers

Elder Ellen Reynolds (Geneva) – August and November readings

The Rev. David Kilgore, HR – August reading

The Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz (Corning) – November reading

COMMITTEE ON MISSION GRANTS

Linda Werts presented the report of the Committee on Mission Grants: the 2 Cents a Meal grants; the Session-Approved Grants; and the Peacemaking Offering grants.

GENERAL COUNCIL, Part 3

Moderator Katherine Griffis led the presbytery in a Service of Commissioning for those who will be attending the 223rd General Assembly (2018, St. Louis) and those who will serve as commissioners to the Synod of the Northeast.

223rd General Assembly

The Rev. Glenn Kennedy (Painted Post, Vice-moderator)

Elder Linda Werts (Newark, Park)

YAAD Cherokee Lane (Palmyra, Western)

Alternate YAAD Kari Starweski (Huron)

Synod of the Northeast

The Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls)

Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)

The Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell)

Henry Augustine, YAAD (Geneva)

11:45 -- LUNCH

Walter Stuber offered grace for the meal, and the presbytery recessed for lunch, provided by the host church.

12:45 – PRESBYTERY RECONVENES

Vice-Moderator the Rev. Glenn Kennedy assumed the chair.

Internal Business: “...The Presbytery of Geneva Lives....” Part 2

REPORT OF THE TRANSITIONAL LEADER

Linda Badger Becker

The Strategic Planning process continues, and the General Council is working hard. The presbytery has approved the Purpose Statement and the Vision Statement. The Bible verse that appropriately relates to both statements is Matthew 5:16, “Let your light so shine before people that they may see your good works, and give glory to God.”

The General Council is at work on the “Strategy” part of the process, which involves setting realistic goals, actions to achieve them, and resources to support that achievement. The recent Survey Monkey survey has produced a “Top-10 list of possibilities:

- Celebrate Good News from Churches (already implemented during this presbytery meeting)
- Develop ways to share resources (especially “information,” which was a top response)
- Develop leader-sharing groups for mutual support, learning, and encouragement.
- Host spiritual retreats for leaders
- Promote use of electronic media (and provided training for how to use them effectively)
- Provide training for church officers and other leaders
- Promote continuing education for clergy and CREs

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- Develop mission/service opportunities
- Promote coaching for congregations and leaders
- Share expertise with one another

Structure and Staffing will follow from the Strategy work.

What is next:

- A Special Meeting of the General Council on May 22, to work on Strategy.
- A well-defined Strategy to be presented to the presbytery in the fall
- Launch something significant by the beginning of 2019

STATED CLERK REPORT

The stated clerk announced that Monday is Katherine Griffis' birthday; the presbytery sang "Happy Birthday."

Items for Presbytery's Action

The presbytery VOTED to:

(Approval of Minutes)

1. **Approve** the Minutes of the March 20, 2018 stated meeting, held at Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra, NY; and the April 4, 2018 special meeting held at the Presbytery Office in Penn Yan, NY.

2. **Receive** the 2017 Annual Statistical Report of the Presbytery of Geneva. [See **Attachment B.**]

The following churches reported NET gains in membership in 2017:

Bath	13
Jasper	4
Phelps	4
Wolcott	2
East Palmyra	1
Oaks Corners	1
Rock Stream	1

The following churches reported ADULT BAPTISMS in 2017:

Ovid	4
Bath	3
Jasper	3
Canandaigua	1
Hector	1
Hornell	1
Painted Post	1
Phelps	1

3. **Receive** the stated clerk's report of the Annual Review of Presbytery Records, April 13-14, 2018 at Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church, Dewitt, NY.

The 2017 Minutes of the Presbytery of Geneva were reviewed, and approved **without exception.**

Items for Presbytery's Information.

(Announcements)

A. The stated clerk announced that he has received an accusation of offence against a member of the presbytery, and that he has recruited an Investigating Committee to investigate the accusation. The Investigating Committee will be formed on Thursday May 24, 2018 and will be comprised of:

- Elder Mae Schweickhard (Oak Creek)
- Elder Susan Frost (Lodi)
- The Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz (Corning)

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The Investigating Committee will have up to one year from the date of their formation (May 23, 2019) to conduct the investigation and to decide whether to present charges for trial before the presbytery's Permanent Judicial Commission.

- B. The stated clerk announced that he has received a second accusation of offense against a member of the presbytery, and that he is in the process of recruiting an Investigating Committee to investigate the accusation. He has begun the process of recruiting members of that Committee, and will report the names and the date of their formation to the September stated meeting of the presbytery.

(Roster of the Permanent Judicial Commission)

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

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

The following report for 2018 lists (1) the current roster of permanent judicial commission members and (2) the expired terms within the past six years.

Current Roster

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

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

Class of 2024 Elder Ellen Reynolds (Geneva)
The Rev. Rob Mellgard (Ovid)

Expired Terms (2011 through 2017)

Elder Carol Heald (Lyons)

(Ordination Anniversaries)

D. 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)

PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
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STATED MEETING
Wolcott Presbyterian Church, Wolcott, NY

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 Tennies (**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)

BUDGET & FINANCE / TREASURER

Elder Tom Bailey presented the report of the Budget & Finance Committee

1. Financial reports (in your packets)
 - a. Summary as of April 30, 2018
Receipts in line and on target with the Budget as are expenses
 - b. Balance Sheet
We have sufficient cash to meet current needs but continued support of the churches in line with their pledges is needed.
 - c. Placement of Funds
Budget and Finance is working towards the separation of designated funds from the Operating Fund and checking account.
2. 2017 Financial Audit
The audit is complete and we received a clean audit. We have fully restored the funding for designated funds and have accumulated working funds for operation. Your support has been vital to this. I will give the General Council a full report at the June 12 meeting.
3. 2019 Budget
The Budget and Finance Committee will begin work on the 2019 Budget in June. We will give full consideration to the issues raised when the 2018 Budget was adopted by the Presbytery. I hope to give you a first draft at the September Presbytery meeting if the General Council has completed its strategies and structures work.

GENERAL COUNCIL, Part 4

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(Presbytery Mission Grants)

1. **Approve** the proposed grants from the "2 cents a Meal Fund.
2. **Approve** the proposed grants for Session-Endorsed Mission.

During discussion of the above motions, the genius of the session-endorsed projects was affirmed. It was noted, however, that congregations need assistance with (a) awareness of grant opportunities available to congregations, and (b) how to apply for them. This concern will involve Strategy and Structure as we move forward in our transition work.

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
May 18, 2018**

**STATED MEETING
Wolcott Presbyterian Church, Wolcott, NY**

(May Presbytery Meeting)

3. **Direct** the proceeds of the May presbytery meeting offering to the Pentecost Offering.
4. **Include** in the May presbytery Docket, and subsequent meetings, a time for "Good News from Churches."

(Presbytery Attorney)

5 **Engage** Carl Steinbrenner (Canandaigua, NY) for legal services on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva on an as-needed basis with cost estimates to be provided; and to **invite** him to the May presbytery meeting for introduction to the presbytery.

[**NOTE:** The presbytery attorney is engaged to serve the *presbytery*, not the particular congregations in the presbytery.]

Background:

On April 23, 2018 Tom Bailey, A.J. Tierson, and John Gingerich meet with Carl Steinbrenner regarding the possibility of his service to the presbytery. Mr. Steinbrenner presented his background, values, and the types of services he could render to the presbytery. He has a strong faith background; a clear sense of the value-impacts of decision-making; and strong background in the areas that the group believes are important to the presbytery. Mr. Steinbrenner will strengthen his knowledge of NYS Religious Corporation Law.

He will be engaged on an as needed basis, with an estimate of costs. The costs will be based on who in his firm can and will do particular work (e.g. work done by him, work done by a legal assistant, work done by a clerk).

(Boundary Awareness Training)

5. **Request** the following persons to attend the Boundary Awareness Training event (in addition to the previous request to pastors and CREs actively serving churches):
 - Persons in Validated Ministries (unless they can verify participation in such training through their work)
 - At-large members of the Presbytery of Geneva
 - Active Honorably Retired members of the Presbytery (those serving churches in any capacity)
 - All persons under care of the Committee on Preparation for Ministry (including CRE candidates).

The Boundary Awareness Training with David Olson is now scheduled for May 10, 2018, 9:00-3:00, at the United Church in Phelps.

THE CANDLES: TIME OF INDIVIDUAL SILENCE AND REFLECTION / PRELUDE FOR WORSHIP

GATHERING FOR WORSHIP AND SENDING

PRESBYTERY WORSHIP SERVICE

The presbytery entered into a time of worship, including the Service of the Lord's Supper. Participants in the worship service included:

The Rev. Walter Stuber, liturgist and preacher

Communion servers:

The Rev. Katherine Griffis

Elder Stephen Beals, CRE

The Rev. Bruce Incze

CLOSING MATTERS

(Resolution of Thanks)

Jeff Richards presented the Resolution of Thanks:

Thank you, Wolcott Presbyterian Church, for hosting the May 19, 2018 Geneva Presbytery meeting.

We thank you for the wonderful treats provided during registration—that included fruits like raspberries, blackberries, and watermelon, in addition to coffee and donuts.

We thank you for providing a place in which we could conduct our business and worship. We are thankful for the music provided by your organist on the beautiful organ that replaced the one lost in the 1999 fire.

We are grateful for the hospitality your congregation members provided, welcoming us in the rain, providing morning treats, and serving a delicious lunch that included ham, turkey and several types of items with which to make our own sandwiches. The pasta with red sauce was also a special treat.

For all of these things, we thank you . . . until we are blessed to meet here again.

(Extinguishing Candles)

(Adjournment & Benediction)

The presbytery VOTED to adjourn the meeting. Glenn Kennedy offered the closing prayer.

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Updated Committee on Ministry Liaison assignments

ATTACHMENT B: 2017 Annual Statistical Report Summary, Presbytery of Geneva

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ATTACHMENT A

COM Liaison Assignments: May 2018

RE Priscilla Andrews

Bath
Hammondsport
Penn Yan
Pulteney
Weston

TE Stanley Bhasker

Corning
Arkport
Painted Post
Jasper
Elmira First

RE Kerm Bossard

Burdett
Hector
Lodi
Romulus
Trumansburg

TE Ellen Donnan

Newark
Sodus
Addison

TE Jim Kerr

Lyons
Geneva
Oaks Corners
Phelps

TE Gail Heimberger

Huron
Ontario Center
Red Creek
Wolcott

TE Jim Hicks

Ithaca
Ovid
Watkins Glen

TE Rob Mellgard

Bellona
Seneca Falls
Seneca No. 9
Waterloo
West Fayette

TE AJ Tierson

Palmyra Western

RE Dick Schied

Atlanta
Rockstream
Moreland
Prattsburgh
Cohocton

RE Bessie Tyrell

Canandaigua United
Howard Union
Naples

RE Rehana Stanley

Big Flats
Elmira North
Elmira Westminster
Elmira Lake Street
Horseheads
Spencer

Generally Cared for by Co-Chairs

Almond
Andover
Canisteo
Hornell
East Palmyra
Junius
Marion

ATTACHMENT B
2017 ANNUAL STATISTICAL REPORT SUMMARY
PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA

Presbytery Number 180228

Name Geneva

Address 2472 Route 54A

City/State Penn Yan, NY 14527

Phone 315-536-7753

Email kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org

Web Site

Fax 315-536-2128

Membership

Prior Active Members 5131

Gains

17 & Under 6

18 & Over 64

Certified 24

Other 117

Total Gains 211

Losses

Certified 12

Deaths 130

Other 311

Total Losses 453

Total Active Members 4889

Baptized 426

Other Participants 437

Total Adherents 5994

Female Members 2965

Average Attendance 2244

Affiliate Members 175

Baptisms

Child Baptisms 34

Adult Baptisms 15

Officers

Male Session 155

Female Session 222

Male Deacons 47

Female Deacons 181

Age Distribution of Active Members

Male

Female

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PALMYRA, NY
March 20, 2018**

25 & Under	295	124	137
26 - 45	543	198	288
46 - 55	494	171	272
56 - 65	650	222	365
Over 65	1344	430	784
Total Distribution	3326	1145	1846

People with Disabilities

Hearing	202
Sight	56
Mobility	130
Other	65

Christian Education

Birth 3	80	Grade 7	26
Age 4	39	Grade 8	42
Kindergarten	47	Grade 9	35
Grade 1	42	Grade 10	30
Grade 2	50	Grade 11	21
Grade 3	53	Grade 12	28
Grade 4	48	Young Adults	56
Grade 5	46	Over 25	390
Grade 6	44	Teachers/Officers	210
Total	1287		

Racial Ethnic Breakdown	Membership	Elders	Deacons	Male	Female
Asian	51	3	2	19	29
Black	14	1	1	8	6
African American	9	0	0	6	2
African	0	0	0	0	0
Middle Eastern	1	0	0	0	1
Hispanic	9	0	1	3	6
Native American	1	0	0	0	1
White	4103	324	194	1127	1962
Other	7	0	0	3	4
Totals	4195	328	198	1166	2011

Potential Giving Units	2,476
Budgeted Income	4,618,058

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
STATED MEETING**

**WESTERN PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, PALMYRA, NY
March 20, 2018**

Budgeted Expense 5,282,492

Receipts

Regular Contributions	3,602,378	Bequests	244,333
Capital Building Fund	518,412	Other Income	630,818
Investment Income	919,573	Subsidy or Aid	1,467

Expenditures

Local Program	3,703,419	Per Capital Apprt	177,471
Local Mission	227,625	Validated Mission	244,653
Capital Expenditures	450,261	Theological Fund	79
Investment Expenditures	89,091	Other Mission	91,863