

OUR PURPOSE

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

OUR VISION

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 Saturday November 17, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Bath, New York.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK

Gathering for Fellowship & Learning

.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: *PCUSA Policy on Factory Farming* – the Rev. Robin Lostetter (Naples)
- *Resting in God: Bible Study* – Ruling Elder Ellen Reynolds (Geneva)

Immediately before the convening, a piper called presbyters to make their way to the sanctuary for the presbytery's Shared Work.

Call to Order and Opening Worship

The Rev. Katherine Griffis, Moderator, called the meeting to order, a quorum being present.

The Moderator offered the opening prayer

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

ROLL

ACTIVE MINISTERS SERVING CHURCHES (P = Present; Ex = Excused; A = Absent)

Name	Jan 26	Mar 19	May 28	Sept 24	Nov 19
Austin, Amy Loving – <i>Bellona Memorial / Seneca, Seneca #9</i>	P				
Bhasker, Stanley – <i>Bath, Bath</i>	Ex				
Crimmins, Betsey – <i>Elmira, First</i>	Ex				
Delhagen, Kyle – <i>Palmyra, Western (RCA, Formula of Agreement)</i>	P				
Donnan, Ellen – <i>Dundee, First / Junius, Junius</i>	P				
Griffis, Katherine – <i>Hornell, United</i>	P				
Grohman, Deb – <i>Ontario, Ontario</i>	P				
Heimberger, Gail – <i>Sodus, First United</i>	P				
Incze, Bruce Imre – <i>Arkport</i>	P				
Kennedy, Glen – <i>Painted Post, United (Stated Supply)</i>	Ex				
Lester, Donald – <i>Howard, Union*</i>	A				
Lind, Deborah – <i>Geneva, The Presbyterian Church of Geneva</i>	P				
Lostetter, Robin – <i>Naples, Trinity Federated</i>	Ex				
Malles, Paul – <i>Penn Yan, First</i>	P				
Marr, Peter – <i>Addison, Addison (Stated Supply)*</i>	A				
Masters, Ben – <i>Hector & Lodi</i>	P				
Mellgard, Rob – <i>Ovid Federated</i>	P				
Mergener, Christopher – <i>Newark, Park</i>	P				
Milne, Anita -- <i>Waterloo</i>	P				
Milne, Cara – <i>Watkins Glen</i>	P				
Ntuala, Leah – <i>Seneca Falls, First</i>	Ex				
O'Leary, Lucinda – <i>Rock Stream (Stated Supply)*</i>	A				
Peeples, Cheryl – <i>Trumansburg, First Ulysses</i>	P				
Preisendanz, David – <i>Elmira, North</i>	Ex				

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
UNITED CHURCH OF CANANDAIGUA, NY
THE REV. DAVID ASHBY, INTERIM PASTOR**

**STATED MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2019**

Riehl, Kirianne Weaver – <i>Ithaca, First</i>	A				
Slater, Sabrina – <i>Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church</i>	P				
Stone, Denise – <i>Big Flats</i>	P				
Tierson, A.J. – <i>Phelps / United Shortsville, Shortsville (Stated Supply)</i>	P				
Ugoretz, Jeffrey – <i>Coming, First</i>	A				
TOTAL PRESENT	18				
TOTAL EXCUSED	6				
TOTAL ABSENT	5				

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

(V = Validated ~ AL = At-large)

Name	Jan 26	Mar 19	May 28	Sept 24	Nov 19
Ashby, David (V) – <i>Interim Pastor, United Church of Canandaigua, NY</i>	P				
Campbell, Anne (AL)	A				
Delhagen, Harold (V) – <i>Synod Executive, Synod of the Northeast</i>	A				
Duncan, Russell (V) -- <i>United Church of Salem, Salem, VT (UCC)</i>	Ex				
Fitzgerald, Janice (V) -- <i>Robinson Memorial PC, Syracuse, NY</i>	P				
Frank, Aaron (AL)	P				
Haines, Todd (AL)	A				
Huling Hummell, Cynthia (AL)	A				
McCollister, Dan (AL)	A				
McDonald, John (AL)	Ex				
Wareham, J. Christy (AL)	Ex				
Warrington, Karl (AL)	A				
Weaver, Cindy (AL)	P				
Winters, Jane (V) – <i>Chaplain, Elmira</i>	P				
TOTAL PRESENT	5				
TOTAL EXCUSED	3				
TOTAL ABSENT	6				

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 26	Mar 19	May 28	Sept 24	Nov 19
Barnard, David	Ex				
Bartel, Joanne	Ex				
Bidelspacher, Nancy Torpey	Ex				
Coffman, Fred	Ex				
Courtney, Philip	Ex				
Creelman, Gilmore	Ex				
Crego, Peter	Ex				
Edwards, Sam	P				
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				
Kerr, Jim	Ex				
Kilgore, David	P				
Knight, Jonathan	Ex				
Magley, Fred	Ex				
Meiser, Jr., Edward	Ex				
Montgomery, Tom	Ex				
Murray, Virginia	Ex				

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
UNITED CHURCH OF CANANDAIGUA, NY
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**STATED MEETING
JANUARY 26, 2019**

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				
Wilson, Carol	P				
TOTAL PRESENT	4				

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 26	Mar 19	May 28	Sept 24	Nov 19
Badger Becker, Elder Linda -- <i>Transitional Leader (Pby of Genesee Valley)</i>	P				
Elfond, the Rev. Cheryl Ann -- <i>Horseheads (Pby of Susquehanna Valley)</i>	A				
Kone, Elder Lea -- <i>Camp Whitman Director (Downtown Pres., Rochester)</i>	P				
Stuber, the Rev. Walter -- <i>Wolcott (Pby of Genesee Valley)</i>	Ex				
TOTAL PRESENT	2				
TOTAL EXCUSED	1				
TOTAL ABSENT	1				

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

Name	Jan 26	Mar 19	May 28	Sept 24	Nov 19
Michelle Serra, serving as Temporary Supply at First, Canisteo	P				
The Rev. Val Fowler, Stated Clerk (<i>Presbytery of Genesee Valley</i>)	P				
TOTAL PRESENT	2				

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING

Name	Presbytery / Agency
The Rev. Antia Milne	Pending Transfer of Membership from Presbytery of Scioto Valley
The Rev. Dan Russell	Pending Transfer of Membership from Presbytery of Hudson River
Stone, Denise	Pending Examination for Ordination and Call to Big Flats

COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Church Name	Jan 26	Mar 19	May 28	Sept 24	Nov 19
Addison, Addison	A				
Andover, First	A				
Arkport, First	Lance Schroeder				
Atlanta, Atlanta	A				
Bath, First	Barbara Scudder				
Benton, Bellona	A				
Big Flats, First	Pat Seem				
Burdett, Burdett	A				
Canandaigua, United	Ken Allen				
Canisteo, Canisteo	Barbara Stephens				
Cohocton, First	A				
Corning, First	A				
Elmira, First	Rehana Stanley				
Elmira, Lake Street	A				
Elmira, North	Jeff Richards				
Fayette, W. Fayette	A				
Geneva (1)	Ellen Reynolds				
Geneva (2)	Ed Frick				
Hammondsport, First	A				
Hector, First	Dave Fitch				

**PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA
 UNITED CHURCH OF CANANDAIGUA, NY
 THE REV. DAVID ASHBY, INTERIM PASTOR**

**STATED MEETING
 JANUARY 26, 2019**

Hornell, United	Lisa Sanford				
Horseheads, First	Paul Yoder				
Howard Union		A			
Huron, Huron	Linda Hayes				
Ithaca, First	Gail Farnham				
Jasper, Jasper		A			
Junius, Junius	Kristi Ward				
Lodi, Lodi		A			
Lyons, First		A			
Marion, United	Connie Franks				
Moreland, Moreland		A			
Naples, Trinity Fed.	Don Braun				
Newark, Park	Debbie Compher				
Oaks Corners	Mae Schweickhard				
Ontario, First		A			
Ovid Federated	Judy Mellgard				
Painted Post, United		A			
Palmyra, E. Palmyra		A			
Palmyra, Western		A			
Penn Yan, First	Rob Anderson				
Phelps, United	Linda Kataskas				
Prattsburg, First		A			
Pulteney, First	Don Peek				
Red Creek		A			
Rock Stream		A			
Seneca Falls, First		A			
Seneca, Seneca #9		A			
Shortsville, First	Alicia Alvarez				
Sodus, First United		A			
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	Kermit Bossard				
Trumansburg, First of Ulysses	Carol McLeod				
Waterloo, First	Ruth Eads				
Watkins Glen, First	Cara Milne				
Weston, Weston		A			
Wolcott	Carol Merrell				
TOTAL PRESENT	29				
TOTAL EXCUSED	0				
TOTAL ABSENT		26			

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

Name	Church	Relationship	Jan 26	Mar 19	May 28	Sept 24	Nov 19
Baker, Phoebe	P	Nominating	Ex				
Bailey, Tom	Spencer	Budget & Finance	P				
Beals, Steven	W. Fayette	CRE / Personnel	P				
Braun, Joann	Naples, Fed	Past Moderator	P				
Champlin, Virginia	Geneva	SNE Min. & Mission	Ex				
Colvin, Donna	Pulteney	Synod Commissioner	P				
Evans, Richard	Burdett	CRE	A				
Frost, Carleen	Red Creek	CRE	P				
Frost, Susan	Weston	CRE	P				
Gingerich, John	Wolcott	CRE / Council Chair	P				
Richmond, Lucille	Red Creek	CRE	A				
Werts, Linda		P.W. President	P				
TOTAL PRESENT			8				
TOTAL EXCUSED			2				

TOTAL ABSENT		2				
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REGISTERED Guests (current meeting)
 Includes CREs not serving churches

Jessie Allen	Trinity Federated, Naples
Antone Olney	Trinity Federated, Naples
Valerie Stone	Big Flats – spouse of Denise Stone
Mary Yoder	Horseheads – spouse of Paul Yoder
Kathy Swann	Bath
Allison Albright	Phelps, United

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 26	Mar 19	May 28	Sept 24	Nov 19
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	27				
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	39				
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+ 12				
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	11				
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders****	26				
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	19				
Total Registered Visitors	5				
Total Registered Attendance*****	72				

* Includes Corresponding Members with voice and vote. Does not include Corresponding Members, with voice, not vote. Includes Validated, At-large, and Honorably Retired
 ** Includes Corresponding Members with voice and vote
 *** 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:

- 9:40 a.m. Guitar (Val Fowler) calls us to our shared work.
- 9:45 a.m. **Gathering for Shared Work**
- 9:45 a.m. Worship: GIVING THANKS FOR OUR PAST

Call to Worship

L: Cry out with joy to the Lord, all the earth. Worship the Lord with gladness. Come into God's presence with singing!

P. For the Lord is a gracious God, whose mercy is everlasting; and whose faithfulness endures to all generations.

Hymn O God, Our Help in Ages Past, vv. 1, 3, 5, 6

Lighting of the Christ Candle

Solo Shall We Gather at the River?

The Rev. Deb Lind-Schmitz, vocal

Necrology

Hymn For all the Saints, vv. 1, 2, 3, 6

Prayer

- 9:50 a.m. **Opening Business: "The Presbytery of Geneva lives...." Part 1**
REJOICING IN THE PRESENT

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 55 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.

Enrollment of Corresponding Members
Approval of Docket
Consent Agenda
Welcome of New Elder Commissioners
Welcome from the Host Church
Appoint composer of a *Resolution of Thanks* approval of Docket
Announcements relevant to the business meeting

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)*

Reminder of Who We Are

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

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

L. Called to portray you, help us to live closer than neighbors, open to strangers, able to clash and forgive.

P. Glad of tradition, help us to see in all life's changing where you are leading, where our best efforts should be.

L. Joined in community, breaking Your bread, may we discover gifts in each other, will to lead and be led.

P. 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, © Hope Publishing, Presbyterian Hymnal, #436, used with permission]

Lighting of the Church Candles and Good News from the Churches

Administrative Commissions (see written reports)

Elmira, Westminster

(Romulus)

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Examination of Candidate for CRE: Connie Franks

Examination of Candidate for CRE: Paul Yoder

Committee on Ministry – the Rev. Ellen Donnan and the Rev. Adrian Tierson, co-chairs

Commissioning Connie Franks & Paul Yoder to Pulpit Supply and Administration of Communion

Examination of Candidate for Ordination: Denise Stone from the Presbytery of Scioto Valley

Approval of Call to Big Flats

Approval of Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install

Examination for Membership Transfer: the Rev. Dan Russell from the Presbytery of Hudson River

Examination for membership Transfer: the Rev. Anita Milne from the Presbytery of New Brunswick

Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship: the Rev. Adrian Tierson & Phelps United

Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

Small Church Network Report

11:00 a.m. Business related to Mission: ". . . to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the world."

General Council, Part 1 – Elder John Gingerich (Wolcott), Chair of General Council

Camp Whitman Capital Campaign – elder Lea Kone, Camp Director

Committee on Representation

Presbyterian Women

USA Mission Experience Trip – Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)

Synod Mission & Ministry Commission

The Sending of the Candles

Hymn: *Come! Live in the Light*, v. 1

Blessing for Lunch

11:45 p.m. LUNCH

12:30 p.m. Presbytery Reconvenes

Internal Business: "The Presbytery of Geneva lives " Part 2

PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE

Presbytery Transitional Leader: Elder Linda Badger Becker

Hymn: *God of Our Life*

Prayer

General Council: Elder John Gingerich (Wolcott), Chair

Use of proceeds of sale of Dundee building

Approval of position description for Presbytery Leader

Election of members to the new Committee on Representation (serving also as Nominating Committee)

Presbytery Nominating Committee – Elder Phoebe Baker (Newark), Chair
Election of new officers, new committee members, and search team for Presbytery Leader
Installation of incoming Presbytery Moderator and Vice-Moderator (to take office effective March 1, 2019)
Budget & Finance Committee / Treasurer – Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer), Chair
Approval of Revised Budget for 2019
Personnel – Elder Stephen Beals, CRE (Seneca Falls, serving West Fayette)

Closing Matters
Resolution of Thanks
Additional announcements

1:45 p.m.

Gathering for Sacrament and Sending

Prelude
Call to Worship : “Be still, and know that I am God”
*Please quiet your hearts in these two minutes of silence as we enter worship.
Now hear God’s voice to you as we sing v. 1 of “I Will Come to You.”*
Confessing Who We Are
Now hear God’s voice again as we sing VV 2-4 of “I Will Come to You.”
Assurance of Pardon
Passing the Peace
Scripture Readings
Sermon: the Rev. Ben Master
Offering [dedicated to the Synod Partnership with Puerto Rico]
The Lord’s Supper
Closing Hymn: *Come! Live in the Light!*, v. 1 (repeated from above)

2:30

Benediction and Adjournment

ENROLLMENT OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

The presbytery VOTED to enroll the following persons as Corresponding Members:
Candidate Benjamin Masters, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of Twin Cities.

STATED CLERK CONSENT AGENDA

The following will be presented as a single motion. You may ask to have any item removed, if you would like it to be discussed. Simply be recognized by the Moderator and say, “Madam Moderator, I would like to lift [say the item number] for discussion.”

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY’S ACTION

The presbytery VOTED to:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the November 17, 2018 stated meeting, held at Bath Presbyterian Church, Bath, NY.
2. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
3. **Receive** the report of the stated clerk for the Annual Review of Session Records, overseen by the Polity & Review Committee. [See report, immediately below.]
4. **Approve** granting to Elder Lea Kone, Camp Whitman Director and member of Downtown United Presbyterian Church, Rochester, NY (the Presbytery of Genesee Valley) the status of Corresponding Member with Voice and Vote during the tenure of her service.

REPORT OF SESSION RECORDS REVIEW – Fall 2018

The Polity & Review Committee
Minutes of 25 sessions Reviewed

October 6, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church, Elmira

Leader: Kris Alling, Polity & Review Committee

Clerks of session present:

Peggy Schuckers – Coming
Kris Alling – First of Ulysses, Trumansburg
Clerk from Elmira, First was not present (illness)

First of Ulysses (reviewed by Johanna Schaff)

No Exceptions

Advice: Please remember to have the session authorize communion dates.

Commendations: Nicely presented; easy to read

Corning (reviewed by Kris Alling)

No Exceptions

Advice: Check with stated clerk on secretary of Annual Meetings

Commendations: Excellent; clerical; easily understood.

Elmira, First (reviewed by Kris Alling)

No Exceptions

Advice: Note Memorial Service for Snead on registry.

Commendations: Excellent, clear (spotless) minutes

October 6, 2018 -- Park Presbyterian Church, Newark

Leader: Val Fowler, stated clerk

Clerks of session present:

Marsha Gibbs – United Church of Phelps

Donna Williams – Shortsville

Mae Schweikard – Oaks Corners

Johanna Schaff – Marion

Cari Taylor – Park, Newark

Debbie McCrossen – East Palmyra

No e-mail / no computer / no internet . . . because of where they live. **Information must be mailed.**

Oaks Corners (reviewed by Johanna Schaff)

No Exceptions

Advice: None

Commendations:

Very well done: clear and neat with concise notations.

The congregation does an excellent job when there are fewer people participating these days.

Phelps (reviewed by Donna Williams)

No Exceptions

Advice: None

Commendations: Done well! Great job!

Shortsville (reviewed by Marsha Gibbs)

No Exceptions

Advice: None

Commendations: Well done: keep up the good work.

Marion (reviewed by Mae Schweickhard)

No Exceptions

Advice: Time of meetings is occasionally missing. Needs to be included every time.

Commendations:

Clear and readable minutes.

East Palmyra (reviewed by Cari Taylor)

No Exceptions:

Other than the comment, "Your meetings are too short." [Huge smile and grin!]

Advice: Include how many were served in communion.

Include Annual Statistical Report Summary in minutes book.

Mention in congregational meetings who the moderator was.

Moderator signs congregational meeting minutes, along with clerk.

Commendations:

Love that joys and concerns were included in minutes.

Like that the place of meeting was stated.

Like how brief the minutes are.

Also included finance report in minutes.

Like that this small church accomplishes so much.

Newark (reviewed by Debbie McCrossen)

No Exceptions

Advice: Minutes should include place of meeting.

Annual review of membership is overdue.

Annual meeting and special meeting minutes need to be signed by moderator as well as clerk.

Commendations:

Minutes are very thorough.

Session has been doing book studies.

Session has managed to re-organize and to become vibrant after some difficult times and changes in pastors.

October 20, 2018, 2018 -- First Presbyterian Church, Canisteo

Leader: Katherine Griffis

Clerks of session present:

Diane Miller – Canisteo

Canisteo (reviewed by Katherine Griffis)

No Exceptions

Advice: All were discussed

Commendations: Good job, Diannel!

November 10, 2018 – Bath

Leader: Cara Milne

Clerks of session present:

Susan Wade – Ithaca

Connie McCarrick – Addison

Emily Kerns – Burdett

Mia Clemens -- Weston

Kathleen Swan -- Bath

Glynis M. Chadwick -- Hammondsport

Ithaca (reviewed by Linda Pressly)

Three Exceptions:

1. Annual Statistical Report not recorded.

2. No record of annual Full Financial Review

3. No report of the Annual Review of Session records, listing exceptions and how they were corrected

Advice: None noted

Commendations: None noted

Addison (reviewed by Emily Kerns)

No Exceptions

Advice: Remember to report consistently that there was a quorum

Commendations: None noted

Burdett (reviewed by Connie McCarrick)

One Exception:

1. No report of dates/times/locations of services of communion

Advice: Report annually the election of the clerk of session

Commendations: None noted.

Weston (reviewed by Kathleen Swan)

No Exceptions

Advice: None noted

Commendations: None noted

Bath (reviewed by Mia Clemens)

No Exceptions

Advice: Page 1913 of Minutes is missing (pastor has it on his desk)

Commendations: None noted

Hammondsport (reviewed by Susan Wade)

One Exception:

1. No record in minutes of annual Full Financial Review

Advice: None noted

Commendations: None noted

November 3, 2018 – Lodi Presbyterian Church

Leader: Amanda McGonigal

Clerks of Session present:

Pam Orsmy – Seneca #9

Karen VanBlargan – Canandaigua, United

Jennie Ewing (and Pastor Rob Mellgard) – Ovid Federated

Lori Fursman -- Moreland

Sue Rocholl –Hector Presbyterian Church

Fred Schublee – Geneva Presbyterian Church

Donna Brown/Patti Smith – Watkins Glen

Spencer Presbyterian Church -- Dropped books for review; no representation

Amanda McGonigal – Lodi Presbyterian Church

Hector (reviewed by Karen Van Blargan)

No Exceptions:

Advice: None noted

Commendations: Minutes in good order

Moreland (reviewed by Susan Rocholl)

No Exceptions

Advice: None noted

Commendations: Small church; good job

Seneca #9 (reviewed by Lori Fursman)

No exceptions

Advice: None noted

Commendations: None noted.

Spencer (reviewed by Rob Mellgard)

Two Exceptions:

1. Budget for 2018? No record of annual audit or Full Financial Review

2. No report of action on pastor's terms of call

Advice: None noted

Commendations: All together good

Ovid Federated (reviewed by Pamela Ormsby)

No Exceptions

Advice: None noted

Commendations: Minutes are well-organized and include all extra-meeting handouts

Watkins Glen (reviewed by Amanda McGonigal)

One Exception:

1. No report of action on pastor's terms of call

Advice: Record election of treasurer and clerk of session . . . with terms

Commendations: Minutes are very well-organized, neat, and beautiful! NICE WORK!

Canandaigua, United (reviewed by Fred Schuble)

Two Exceptiona:

1. No Sexual Misconduct Policy found

2. No Child Protection & Safety policy found

Advice: None noted

Commendations:

Page numbers are helpful

Excellent records

Geneva (reviewed by Donna Brown)

No Exceptions:

Advice: None noted

Commendations: Very thorough, neat, and well-organized

Additional Review Reported: Prattsburgh (Lynne Dinehart, Clerk of session)

No Exceptions – No Advice or Commendations noted.

(Minutes: Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install)

4. Receive the Minutes of the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install Ben Masters as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Hector, NY and Lodi Presbyterian Church, Lodi, NY.

**Minutes of Administrative Commission to Ordain & Install Ben Masters to serve the Hector and Lodi Congregations
December 1, 2018**

Having been properly appointed at the November 17, 2018 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, the Administrative Commission to ordain and Install Candidate Ben Master as Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Hector, NY and the Lodi Presbyterian Church of Lodi, NY on Saturday December 1, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. convened for the service at the Lodi Historical Society.

Members of the Administrative Commission:

Presbytery Moderator the Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell)

The Rev. Cara Milne (Watkiins Glen)

The Rev. Kirianne Riehl (Ithaca)

The Rev. Rob Mellgard (Ovid)

Ruling Elder Kermit Bossard (Spencer)

Ruling Elder Susan Frost, CRE (Weston)

Ruling Elder Vicky Schamel (Hector)

1. All members of the Administrative Commission listed above were present; and the commission was called to order at 12:35 p.m. by Moderator the Rev. Katherine Giffis, who offered prayer.
2. The Commission appointed the Rev. Rob Mellgard as clerk of the Commission.
3. The Commission reviewed the worship service.
4. Upon motion and second, the Commission VOTED—with thanks to those participating, to close the work of the Administrative Commission with the closing benediction of the service.
5. The service was conducted decently and in order. Ben Masters was properly ordained by the positive answering of all constitutional questions, and prayer with the laying on of hands. By these actions the Rev. Ben Master was installed as Pastor of the Lodi and Hector congregations, as of December 1, 2018.

Attest: *Rob Mellgard*, Clerk of the Commission.

**ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION
(Ordination Anniversaries)**

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

5 years (2014)

The Rev. Aaron Frank (May 18, 2014 – Presbytery of Baltimore)

15 years (2004)

The Rev. Anne Campbell (November 14, 2004 – Presbytery of Geneva)

25 years (1994)

The Rev. Anita Milne (November 6, 1994 – Presbytery of Kiskiminetas)

30 years (1989)

The Rev. David Preisendanz (January 15, 1989 – Presbytery of Long Island)

The Rev. Dan Russell (July 9, 1989 – Presbytery of Genesee Valley)

The Rev. Deborah Lind-Schmitz (July 23, 1989 – Presbytery of Twin Cities)

35 years (1984)

The Rev. Katherine Griffis (September 30, 1984 – Presbytery of Birmingham)

40 years (1979)

The Rev. Edward Meiser, Jr. (March 18, 1979 – Presbytery of Utica)

45 years (1974)

The Rev. John Gould (June 9, 1974 – Presbytery of Lake Michigan)

The Rev. Jim Gerling (June 16, 1974 – Presbytery of Albany)

The Rev. Tom Montgomery (July 7, 1974 – Presbytery of Scioto Valley)

The Rev. C. Philip Courtney (October 6, 1974 – Presbytery of Philadelphia)

50 years (1969)

The Rev. James Newman (February 1, 1969 – Presbytery of Utica)

The Rev. Jeffrey Kellam (June 30, 1969 – Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley)

The Rev. Jamie Tyrell (December 15, 1969 – Presbytery of Louisville)

Over 50 years

The Rev. Robert Rochelle (**51 years**, October 5, 1968 – Presbytery of Newton)

The Rev. Timothy Johnson (**52 years**, May 28, 1967 – Presbytery of Lake Huron)

The Rev. Jim Hicks (**53 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 (**56 years**, June 18, 1963 – Presbytery of Mahoning)

The Rev. John Valk (**58 years**, October 15, 1961 – Presbytery of Newark)

The Rev. John Elder (**59 years**, May 20, 1960 – Presbytery of Northern New England)

The Rev. Herb Tennes (**60 years**, May 14, 1959)

The Rev. Fred Coffman (**69 years**, July 1, 1950 – Presbytery of Philadelphia)

The Rev. Fred Magley (**71 years**, October 13, 1948 – Presbytery of Newark)

WELCOME OF NEW ELDER COMMISSIONERS

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

Hector

WELCOME FROM THE HOST CHURCH

The Rev. David Ashby, Interim Pastor, welcomed the presbytery, on behalf of the United Church of Canandaigua.. He shared a brief history of the United Church seeds of which were sown in response to a fire which destroyed the First Baptist Church building in 1932. The churches began sharing worship and ministries under the leadership of the pastors of both churches. In 1951 the churches joined to become a Federated Church. In 1966 they became a United Church, and thus a member church of the United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America. With reunion in 1983, the church became a member of the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Moderator appointed Elder Barbara Stephens (Canisteo) 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.

- West Fayette – the annual Christmas Carol sing involved 135 attendees
- Junius – the church is growing and now has the first Youth Group in a number of years.
- Oaks Corners – Received two new church members through Profession of Faith and Baptism
- Geneva – Celebrates their arts programs: Sacred Arts and Art from the Heart
- Seneca #9 and Bellona – Celebrate 50 years as a yoked parish
- Ontario – Began offering a Free Community Meal two years ago – now serve 70 people, and other churches in the community have begun participating in the ministry
- Spencer – Pastor Sabrina Slater participated in a Rotary fundraiser, Dancing With the Stars. She and her partner *won!*
- Hector and Lodi – Raised \$1700 each for several ministries, including the local Habitat For Humanity and the Ambulance Corps.
- Ithaca – Has planned an educational bus tour as part of a mission trip to Newburg, NC, including visits to Charlottesville, VA; the civil rights memorials in Atlanta, GA; the National Lynching Memorial; and the National Museum of African-American History and Culture.
- Newark, Park – This year's annual Rummage Sale (March) will dedicate the proceeds to Family Promise.
- East Palmyra – Raised \$500 for two families at Christmas time.
- Weston – Raised \$7,000 in Mission Funds to support local ministries and ministries beyond the area.
- Canisteo – Celebrates renewing their Temporary Supply Contract with Michelle Serra and celebrates that they will be hosting the Presbytery of Geneva Stated Meeting in March (with other churches in their neighborhood cluster participating).

REPORTS OF ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

(Elmira, Westminster)

Jane Winters, Administrative Commission Chair, reported concerning the progress of the Commission.

The Commission has received a purchase offer for the Westminster building from Monumental Baptist Church. She described the excitement of the members of Monumental Baptist, who participated in a walk-through of the building.

The remaining financial resources of the church have been consolidated into one account: @ \$43,000.

Requested membership actions (two removals from the roll and one request for transfer) have been completed. The contents of the building have been removed or spoken for, with the exception of 100 blue *Presbyterian Hymnals*.

One remaining item is a beautiful rendition of the banner of the former United Presbyterian Church in the United States of America (UPCUSA). Through a Facebook page, "Happy to be a Presbyterian," a church requested the banner as a means of honoring their past connection to the former denomination.

More than 100 people attended the church's dissolution service.

The Commission has been working with a local attorney regarding the sale of the building. Out of that work the Commission proposed two motions

The presbytery VOTED to:

Authorize the Administrative Commission for Westminster Presbyterian Church, Elmira to sell the Westminster property on behalf of the presbytery, on terms and conditions that are reasonably acceptable to the Commission. The Commission shall have authority to act on behalf of the presbytery to petition the New York State Supreme Court and/or Attorney General for an order authorizing the sale, and shall have authority on behalf of the presbytery to effectuate the sale and closing thereof, including specifically the authority to execute a deed on behalf of the presbytery to a third-party buyer. Furthermore, the Presbytery of Geneva, because of the presence of a valid purchase offer, does not require the Administrative Commission to transfer the title to the presbytery prior to effectuating the sale.

COMMITTEE ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY

(Examination of Commissioned Ruling Elder / Elder Connie Franks)

The presbytery examined Elder Connie Franks who seeks commissioning as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.

The presbytery VOTED to:

1. **Sustain** the examination of Elder Connie Franks.
2. **Commission** Elder Connie Franks as a Commissioned Ruling elder, commissioned to the Pulpit Supply List, with permission to officiate the Service of the Lord's Supper by request of a session.

(Examination of Commissioned Ruling Elder / Elder Paul Yoder)

The presbytery examined Elder Paul Yoder who seeks commissioning as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.

The presbytery VOTED to:

3. **Sustain** the examination of Elder Paul Yoder.
4. **Commission** Elder Paul Yoder as a Commissioned Ruling elder, commissioned to the Pulpit Supply List, with permission to officiate the Service of the Lord's Supper by request of a session.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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

SERVICE OF COMMISSIONING

The Moderator and the Committee on Ministry Co-chairs led the presbytery in a Service of Commissioning Elder Connie Franks and Elder Paul to the Pulpit Supply list, with authorization to officiate the Service of the Lord's Supper, at the invitation of a session.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT and ACTIONS

[From the regular meetings of 12/04/2018 and 01/09/2019]

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION

The Presbytery VOTED to:

(Examination for Ordination / Denise Stone)

1. **Examine** Denise Stone (a Candidate under care of the Presbytery of Scioto Valley) for ordination; and to **sustain** the examination..
2. **Appoint** the following Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install Denise Stone as Pastor of First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY on Sunday February 24, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. in the sanctuary of First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY:
 - Moderator the Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell) or her designee
 - The Rev. Jane Winters (Elmira, Westminster)

- The Rev. Jeff Ugoretz (Corning)
- Ruling Elder Pat Seem
- Ruling Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)
- Ruling Elder Rehana Stanley (Elmira, First)

Other Participants:

- The Rev. Nate Manzo, member, Presbytery of Scioto Valley

3. **Appoint** the Rev. Nate Manzo as a corresponding member of the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install.
4. **Authorize** the Moderator or designee to make changes in the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install, as necessary and appropriate.
5. **Dismiss** the Administrative Commission to Ordain and Install, with thanks, at the conclusion of the Service of Ordination and Installation.

(Big Flats / Denise Stone)

6. **Approve** the call of Denise Stone as Pastor (50% time) of First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY effective February 24, 2019 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	16,226.00
Housing Allowance	8,737.00
Total Effective Salary (monthly)	24,963.00

Social Security offset	1910.00
Travel allowance (IRS rate, vouchered)	500.00
Study leave (cum. 3 years)	500.00
Professional expense	1,500.00
Retirement (11% - equiv. to PCUSA)	

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

Moving Expenses up to \$2,000.00

Elder Pat Seem attested to the congregation meeting held on Sunday January 17, 2019 and moderated by Elder Rehana Sanley (COM liaison); and spoke to the call of Denise Stone

7. **Appoint** the Rev. Denise Stone as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Big Flats, NY effective February 24, 2019.

(Transfer of Membership / the Rev. Daniel Russell)

8. **Examine** the Rev. Daniel Russell for membership in the Presbytery of Geneva; and to **sustain** the examination.
9. **Request** that the Presbytery of Hudson River transfer the Rev. Daniel Russell to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, effective January 26, 2019. He would be a member-at-large.

(Transfer of Membership / the Rev. Anita Milne)

10. **Examine** the Rev. Anita Milne for membership in the Presbytery of Geneva; and if the way be clear, **sustain** the examination.
11. **Request** that the Presbytery of New Brunswick transfer the Rev. Anita Milne to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, effective January 26, 2019.

12. **Appoint** the Rev. Anita Milne as moderator of the session of First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, NY effective December 5, 2018.

(Dissolution of Pastoral Relationship / Phelps United)

13. **Approve**, if the way be clear, the request of the Session of the United Church of Phelps, NY for the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the United Church of Phelps and the Rev. Adrian Tierson, effective February 14, 2019.

The Congregation meeting will be held on Sunday January 27, 2019 and will be moderated by the Rev. Adrian Tierson.

Allison Albright spoke to the action of the congregation; and Linda Kataskas spoke to the ministry of the Rev. Tierson.

The presbytery celebrated the service of Adrian Tierson to the presbytery, and also celebrated the service of his wife Alicia Alvarez as the presbytery's Office Administrator.

(Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults Policy)

14. **Approve** the proposed *Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy* [See Attachment A], which will replace the current *Child Protection Policy*. [See **Appendix A.**]

(Addition to the Sexual Misconduct Policy)

15. **Approve** the following addition to the *Sexual Misconduct Policy*, Section 3.101, *Education at the Presbytery Level*, by inserting the following text after the first paragraph of the section:

Boundary Awareness training will be offered by the Presbytery every three years. The following leaders are required to take this training (*or a similar alternative*) every three years.

- * Pastors serving Congregations
- * Active Retired Pastors who are offering pulpit supply or other services to congregations
- * At-Large Minister Members
- * Pastors in Validated Ministries
- * Commissioned Ruling Elders, including those commissioned to pulpit supply
- * Persons under care of the Committee on Preparation
- * Members of the Permanent Judicial Commission
- * Members of Committee on Ministry
- * Presbytery Staff

(Addendum G to the Temporary Standing Rules -- Triennial Visit Program)

16. **Delete** Addendum G (Triennial Visit Program) from the presbytery's Temporary Standing Rules; and **direct** the newly-forming COM, Leader Care, and Vitality Committees each to develop plans for maintaining regular contact with congregations and leaders in ways that are appropriate to the work of their committees.

(Addendum H to the Temporary Standing Rules – Regular Review of Stated and Interim Supply Relations)

17. **Delete** Addendum H (Regular Review of Stated and Interim Supply Relations) from the presbytery's Temporary Standing Rules; and **direct** new Committee on Ministry to develop an updated review process, to become a part of the Committee on Ministry Manual.

(Addendum D to the Temporary Standing Rules – Manse and Housing Allowance Recommendations)

18. **Delete** Addendum D (Manse and Housing Allowance Recommendations) from the presbytery's Temporary Standing Rules; and **direct** the new Committee on Ministry to develop updated recommendations, to become a part of the Committee on Ministry Manual.

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY

Acting on behalf of presbytery, the Committee VOTED to:

(Moderator Appointment / Elmira, North)

1. **Appoint** the Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummel as moderator of the session of North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY effective December 4, 2018.

(Moderator Appointment / Atlanta)

2. **Appoint** the Rev. Robin Lostetter as moderator of the session of Atlanta Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, NY effective January 9, 2018.

(Moderator Appointment Elmira, North)

3. **Appoint** the Rev. Ellen Donnan as moderator of the session of North Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY during January 2019.
4. **Appoint** the Rev. Cynthia Huling Hummel as moderator of the session of North Presbyterian church, Elmira, NY during February 2019.

(Moderator Appointment / Big Flats)

5. **Appoint** Elder (and COM Liaison) Rehana Stanley as moderator for the January 27, 2019 congregation meeting; and **authorize** Elder Stanley to ordain and install officers on that Sunday.

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

(Waiver of Term Limit / Huron)

1. **Grant** a waiver of term limit for Elder Ron Eygnor, so that he may serve an additional year as an active Ruling Elder on the session of Huron Presbyterian Church, Huron, NY.

(Waiver of Term Limit / Prattsburg)

2. **Approve** a waiver of term limits for a Ruling Elder, that she may be nominated to serve an additional term in the class of 2021.

(Waiver / Bellona)

3. **Approve** a waiver for Ruling Elder Paul Slentz, so that he may serve an additional three year term on session.

(Waiver / Hammondsport)

4. **Approve** a waiver for two Ruling Elders, so that they may serve additional three year terms on session.

(Waterloo / the Rev. Anita Milne)

5. **Approve** the Temporary Supply Covenant (1/2 time) between the session of First Presbyterian Church, Waterloo, NY and the Rev. Anita Milne (a minister member of the Presbytery of New Brunswick), effective December 5, 2018 at the following terms (monthly):

Cash Salary	379.32
Housing Allowance	1,517.29
Total Effective Salary (monthly)	1,896.61

Social Security offset	145.00
Travel allowance IRS mileage rate, vouchered	
Study leave	41.67

Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays
 3 additional Sundays (pulpit supply provided by Rev. Milne)
 Study Leave: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

(Huron / the Rev. Nancy Farrell)

6. **Approve** the renewal of the Temporary Supply Covenant (1/2 time) between the session of Huron Presbyterian Church, Huron, NY and the Rev. Nancy Farrell, effective December 1, 2018 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	8,364.00
Housing Allowance	16,236.00
Dental/Medical (vouchered)	1,000.00
Professional Expense (vouchered)	1,000.00

Study Leave (vouchered) 1,000.00
Travel allowance IRS mileage rate, vouchered

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

(Addison / the Rev. Peter Maar)

7. **Approve** the renewal of the Temporary Supply Covenant (1/4 time) between the session of Addison Presbyterian Church, Addison, NY and the Rev. Peter Marr (American Baptist), effective January 1, 2019 at the following terms:

Cash Salary 8,113.00
Housing Allowance 8,998.00
Study leave 250.00

Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays

(Temporary Supply Covenant / Juhara Shazar, Lake Street)

8. **Approve** the Temporary Supply Covenant (full-time) between the session of Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY and Juhara Shazar, effective upon session approval, at the following terms:

Total package of \$60,000.00 (with no benefits)
Vacation: three weeks, including 3 Sundays
Study Leave: 2 weeks, including 2 Sundays

NOTE: This action does not authorize Juhara Shazar to officiate the Sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper.

(Background Check Policy)

9. **Refer** the *Background Check Policy* to the General Council, for their review and approval and recommendation to the presbytery.

(Oaks Corners / the Rev. Karl Warrington)

10. **Approve** the Stated Pulpit Supply Covenant between the session of Oaks Corners Presbyterian Church, Oaks Corners, NY and the Rev. Karl Warrington, effective immediately at the following terms:
\$150.00 per week for preaching
\$50.00 per week for visitation
\$20.00 per hour for work related to the above duties
\$50 per session meeting.

The relationship appears to be going well, and the report is that Karl Warrington's presence in these roles has "breathed new life" into the congregation. The session and Karl are working hard on the boundaries of the relationship.

11. **Small Church Network Report** – The ministry of Weston Presbyterian Church, Weston, NY
Elder Susan Frost, CRE serving Weston Presbyterian Church celebrated the ministry of the church, and observations of the nature of small church ministry. The congregation has a passion for music, and singing in particular. It is one of the strengths of their life and worship.

The congregation has a strong sense of mission to the wider community, and a very strong commitment to partnerships with the other churches in their area. The mission of the church is not only a part of their budget, but also is supported by continuing donations and admirable volunteer service. The proceeds of their investments are used for mission, at total of @ \$3,000 in 2018.

Plans are in place for prayer meetings among the Community of Churches, and the hope is that these gatherings will involve community leaders, thus strengthening the connections with the community in which they live.

During the report of the Committee on Ministry, the presbytery VOTED to extend this portion of the meeting to noon, to complete the Committee on Ministry Report, and to resume the meeting at 12:45 p.m., following lunch.

SENDING OF THE CANDLES – Hymn, *Come! Live in the Light!* V. 1

As the Moderator read the names of the presbytery's churches—in small groups, by area of the presbytery—a member or pastor of the church came forward to extinguish their church's candle and to take it, to use in their church as a sign of our connection and unity.

The presbytery read in unison the words to the first verse of the hymn, *Come! Live in the Light!*

Moderator Katherine Griffis offered grace for lunch, and the presbytery made their way to the fellowship hall.

RECESS FOR LUNCH

RECONVENING

The presbytery reconvened for the remainder of business and the closing Service of the Lord's Supper..

CAMP WHITMAN – CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Lea Kone, Camp Whitman Director, thanked the presbytery for acting to make the position of Director a full-time position. She began in that capacity on January 1, 2019.

Lea reported concerning the Camp Whitman Capital Campaign: *Seeds of Hope*.

The Run River Consultants work with the Camp Whitman Committee was excellent and lifted up two major categories of bringing the camp to strength:

1. Mission development
2. Facility Planning

The initial, modest \$200,000 campaign more than doubled following the giving of a \$250,000 matching gift for Camp Whitman mission and facility development.

The current status of the campaign is:

\$250,000 matching gift

\$171,000 raised to date, from:

Churches: Canandaigua, Geneva, Waterloo, Christ the King, Laurelton (Rochester)

Foundations

Communities

Individuals: Thanks to Jeff Richards and Phil Opdyke for generous contributions

\$79,000 – the amount remaining, to be raised over the next year.

Today marks the beginning of the *Seeds of Hope – Camp Whitman* campaign. Brochures are available in the registration area. All churches, leaders, and members are encouraged to be aware of and to support the events and activities which will help us to attain the \$79,000 remaining in the campaign challenge.

Lea presented some “before and after” slides of the work already completed: new steel roofs and painting of several cabins; the renovation and upgrading of staff cabins so that they may be available for adult groups from our churches (session retreats, adult programming, etc.), and the upgrading of the floor in the Lodge.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Linda Werts reported that our presbytery will be hosting the triennial 2019 *Mission Experience – Finger Lakes Region*, bringing guests from all over our country, and some international visitors. The theme for the experience will be “*Standing on the Shoulders of Empowered Women.*”

In addition to hands-on opportunities, the participants will visit several historic sites in our area, including the National Women's Rights Museum (Seneca Falls), the Harriet Tubman home (Auburn), and others.

The Presbyterian Women needs—now—team members for planning the event.

2019 YOUTH TRIENNIUM REGISTRAR

The Rev. Deb Lind, who has stepped forward to be the Registrar for the 2019 Youth Triennium at Purdue University, encouraged presbyters to encourage the youth of their churches to enroll. The deadline is **the end of February**.

Those interested in being adult leaders for the event may contact the Presbytery Office or Deb Lind (Geneva Presbyterian Church).

**Internal Business: “The Presbytery of Geneva lives. . .” Part 2
PREPARING FOR THE FUTURE**

(Presbytery Transitional Leader)

Elder Linda Badger Becker reported to the presbytery. She briefly reviewed the steps of the Transition Process to date, and the results of each step. We are now at the current stage of restructuring and implementing the Purpose, Vision, and Strategy for the presbytery’s work. She observed that the presbytery is in a very good place to seek a Presbytery Leader.

She observed, “There are lots of changes, and thus a good bit of nervousness and anxiety, but the work that the presbytery’s leaders and the presbytery has done is wonderful grounding for moving forward. She noted, “If change isn’t awkward, it isn’t change. She led the presbytery in a quick exercise in experiencing and reflecting on one aspect of change, noting that one aspect of change is loss, and we need to acknowledge that. The fruit of the hard work of the past year-and-a-half is the ability for the change and loss to be grounded in God’s love and grace, and God’s purpose for this presbytery. She reminded the presbytery of the promise in Jeremiah 30:29.

The presbytery sang a hymn: *God of Our Life, Through All the Circling Years*. The Moderator offered prayer.

(General Council)

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

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY

[From the regular meeting of 01/08/2019.]

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY’S ACTION

The Presbytery VOTED to:

(New Committee on Representation)

1. **Elect** the following persons to the Committee on Representation:
Elder Carleen Frost, CRE – Class of 2019
Elder Phoebe Baker – Class of 2020
The Rev. Jim Gerling, HR – Class of 2020

(Presbytery Leader Position Description)

2. **Approve** the Position Description for the Presbytery Leader [See **Appendix B**.]

(Proceeds of the Sale of the Dundee Church Property)

3. **Refer** to the General Council for report to the March stated meeting of the presbytery the following two items, for reconsideration and possible revision:

The original proposal from the General Council:

That the presbytery **approve** the following amended recommendation, regarding the sale of the property of the First Presbyterian Church, Dundee, NY (dissolved).

- **Retain** \$50,000 of the assets from the sale of First Presbyterian Church, Dundee, NY in the checking account for cash reserves.
[NOTE: Currently the Vittum fund is providing this security. Placing a portion of the Dundee funds in reserve would allow the full release of the @\$54,000 balance from the Vittum fund for Camp Whitman to the savings account to be used for the benefit of Camp Whitman.]
- **Dedicate** up to \$15,000 of assets from the sale of the First Presbyterian Church of Dundee, NY to support the Presbytery's new structure.
- **Dedicate** up to \$25,000 of assets from the sale of the First Presbyterian Church of Dundee, NY to underwrite per capita for the next few years to avoid increased the burden on congregations.
- **Acknowledge with gratitude** the blessings of a dissolved congregation in supporting the Purpose and the Vision of the Presbytery of Geneva.

A request from the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church, Dundee, NY

This request came to the General Council's attention only in the last few days.

That the General Council consider the use of funds from the sale of the Dundee Church for small church report. Again, the Council was unaware of this preference of the Administrative Commission.

(Presbytery Meeting Schedule)

4. Approve the following meeting schedule and invitations:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, March 19, 2019, 9:00 am | - To invite Canisteo to host |
| Tuesday, May 28, 2019, <u>5:00 pm</u> | - To invite Ovid to host |
| Tuesday, September 24, <u>5:00 pm</u> | - To request Camp Whitman to host |
| Tuesday, November 19, 9:00 am | - To invite Trumansburg to host |
| Saturday, January 25, 9:00 am | - To invite Hector to host (no lunch) |

Background and Rationale

After lengthy discussion on how Presbytery meetings can best serve our Purpose and Vision, Council VOTED to:

1. **Continue** our current pattern of five meetings a year for March 2019 through January 2020. This is because of all the changes coming with the new structure and staff in 2019.
2. **Approve** the following schedule of meeting days for the coming year, in order to meet the needs of pastors, people with family commitments, and people with secular weekday jobs: for this coming year we will:
 - a. Hold only one Saturday meeting, namely the January 2020 meeting, which will be a morning-only meeting. (The January 2019 meeting was already set.)
 - b. Hold two day-time Tuesday meetings and two evening Tuesday meetings.

Additional ideas for the Camp Whitman meeting included: optional wagon tours of the grounds that afternoon before the meeting; a hot dog roast for dinner; worship around the camp fire; and the opportunity following the meeting for people to stay the night at their own expense.

Additional ideas for the January meeting: the annual necrology and an educational event, possibly Presbyterian Disaster Assistance training.

The General Council also VOTED to:

- **Survey our congregations** about their seating capacities, meal capacities, and other facilities (whether in their own building or borrowable nearby) to aid in scheduling Presbytery gatherings, both regular meetings and special events.
- **Inform** host churches that it may be necessary to adjust one or more of our planned times if our new staff have existing schedule conflicts.
- **Attempt** to have the following year's meeting pattern, dates and locations decided by November 2019.

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(Nominating a new Stated Clerk)

1. **Approve** the process that the Personnel Committee will receive and review applications, and recommend a nominee to the Nominating Committee.
[NOTE: The advertisement for the position of stated clerk is out, and people are being encouraged to submit an application. The Council hopes that a new stated clerk may be named in time for her/him to be able to attend the New Clerks Orientation offered by the General Assembly in March, and to be elected during the March stated meeting of the presbytery.]

(Presbytery Building Sale)

2. **Retain** Amanda Grover as realtor for the sale of the presbytery building.
3. **Relist** the building at the current asking price, which will be negotiable through the realtor.

Rationale

The 3-month extension with realtor Amanda Grover is completed. There have been many lookers, but no offers. The presbytery purchased the building for \$202,000 and owes \$100,000. By previous General Council action, the building is listed at \$199,000.

[NOTE: The Personnel Committee has approved job descriptions for the Director of Camp Whitman and the Stated Clerk.]

(Offering from the January 26, 2019 Stated Meeting)

4. **Direct** the offering from the January 26, 2019 stated meeting to the Synod of the Northeast in honor of participants from the presbytery of Geneva in the Mission Partnership with Puerto Rico—in particular, the First, Elmira and Park, Newark congregations.

NEW BUSINESS – TRANSITIONAL WORK

(Manual of Operations) (

5. *A Manual of Operations* is required by the *Book of Order*, and will replace the Temporary Standing Rules. The Transitional Leader informed Council that much of the content for the Manual has already been settled by our transitional work. She will prepare a draft *Manual* for Council's consideration, with the hope that it can be brought to the March Presbytery meeting for approval.

(Timeline)

6. We are in good shape on our Optimist's Timeline.

(Guidance for the Search Committee for Presbytery Leader)

7. The General Council VOTED to:
 - **Request** the Search Committee to present their candidate to the Presbytery for approval of the appointment. [Note: Council earlier in the meeting approved the position description for the PL, including a term of three years. This position description will come to Presbytery in January for approval.]
 - **Request** Synod Leader, the Rev. Harold Delhagen, to be Synod Liaison to the Search Committee.

PRESBYTERY NOMINATING COMMITTEE

In the absence of Elder Phoebe Baker, Chair, the Transitional Leader presented the report of the Presbytery Nominating Committee.

The presbytery VOTED to:

Elect the following persons to serve as officers of the presbytery:

2019 Moderator: the Rev. Glenn Kennedy (Painted Post)

2019 Vice-Moderator: the Rev. Amy Loving Austin (Bellona & Seneca #9)

2019 Chair of General Council: the Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell / Immediate Past Presbytery Moderator)

Presbytery Stated Clerk: the Rev. Val Fowler, HR (term to continue until new stated clerk is elected)

Elect the following persons to service on the General Council:

Synod Commissioner Representative: Ruling Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva)
General Assembly Commissioner Representative: Ruling Elder Linda Werts (Newark)
Presbyterian Women Representative: Ruling Elder Joann Braun (Naples)
At-Large Ruling Elder member: Ruling Elder Donna Colvin (Pulteney)
At-Large Teaching Elder member: the Rev. Tim Johnson, HR

Elect the following persons to service on the newly structured committees of the presbytery:

Committee on Operations

Class of 2019: Ruling Elder Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western)
The Rev. Nancy Farrell, HR
The Rev. Paul Malles (Penn Yan)

Class of 2020: Ruling Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer)
The Rev. David Ashby (Canandaigua)
Ruling Elder Marc Smith (Seneca Falls)

Class of 2021: Ruling Elder Jim Varner (Hornell)]
The Rev. Deb Lind (Geneva)
Ruling Elder Milt Erb (Hammondsport)

Committee on Ministry

Class of 2019: Ruling Elder John Gingerich, CRE (Wolcott)
The Rev. Jim Hicks, HR
The Rev. Rob Mellgard (Ovid)

Class of 2020: Ruling Elder Rehana Stanley (Elmira, First)
The Rev. Stanley Bhasker (Bath)
The Rev. Ellen Donnan (Junius)

Class of 2021: Ruling Elder Ken Allen (Canandaigua)
The Rev. Christopher Mergener (Newark)
Ruling Elder Elizabeth Newell (Geneva)

Leader Care Committee

Class of 2019: Ruling Elder Judy Mellgard
POSITION OPEN

Class of 2020: The Rev. Gail Heimberger (Sodus)
Ruling ElderElder Donald Peek, CRE (Pulteney)

Class of 2021: The Rev. Bruce Incze (Arkport)
Ruling Elder Connie Franks, CRE (Marion)

Camp Whitman Committee

Class of 2019: Ruling Elder Beth Whitbeck (Lyons)
Ruling Elder Alan Doan (Penn Yan)

Class of 2020: The Rev. Kyle Delhagen (Palmyra, Western)
Ruling Elder Ernie Danforth (Corning)

Class of 2021: The Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls)
Ruling Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)

Vitality Committee

Class of 2019: Ruling Elder Kristi Ward (Junius)
Ruling Elder Kerm Bossard (Spencer)

Class of 2020: The Rev. Cheryl Peebles (Trumansburg)
Ruling Elder Priscilla Andrews, CRE (Rock Stream)

Class of 2021: The Rev. Cara Milne (Watkins Glen)
Ruling Elder Stephen Beals, CRE (Seneca Falls, serving West Fayette)

Mission & Witness Committee

Class of 2019: The Rev. Deborah Grohman (Ontario Center)
Ruling Elder Mark Palmiere (Geneva)

Class of 2020: Ruling Elder Linda Werts (Newark)
Ruling Elder Joann Tunsion (Elmira, First)

Class of 2021: Ruling Elder Lisa Sanford
OPEN POSITION

Elect the following persons to the Presbytery Search Committee to identify a candidate to fill the position of Presbytery Leader:

The Rev. Cynthia Weaver (Ithaca)
Ruling Elder John Gingerich (Wolcott)
Ruling Elder Ellen Reynolds (Geneva)
Ruling Elder Karen Diehl (Seneca Falls)
The Rev. Kyle Delhagen (Palmyra, Western)

The Nominating Committee thanks all who gave time and prayerful consideration to invitations to serve. Another thank you to the members of the Nominating Committee:

Ruling Elder Larry Bates	Ruling Elder Linda Kataskas	Ruling Elder Paul Salisbury
The Rev. David Kilgore	The Rev. Jim Gerling	Elder Carleen Frost, CRE
Ruling Elder Sylvia Dorschel		

. . . and, of course a great thank-you to our Transitional Leader Linda Badger Becker, for providing the leadership that helped it all come together.

Finally, a reminder that all of you are our greatest resources for identifying those who can serve the presbytery as officers or on the newly-structured committees. A contact with a member of the Committee on Nominations or the presbytery office is welcome at any time.

INSTALLATION OF 2019 PRESBYTERY MODERATOR and VICE-MODERATOR

It was noted that the 2019 Moderator, the Rev. Glenn Kennedy, is unable to be present due to family concerns. His installation will occur at the beginning of the March stated meeting of the presbytery.

The Moderator led the Service of Installation for 2019 Vice Moderator Amy Loving Austin, using the service from the *Book of Occasional Services*.

BUDGET & FINANCE / TREASURER

Elder Tom Bailey presented the report of the Budget & Finance Committee, and for the Treasurer.

(Preliminary Report of 2018 Finances)

The books for 2018 have not yet been closed, and receipts are still coming in. The report looks to be good:

- The presbytery received more than it spent.
- In just four years, the presbytery's finances are fully restored and healthy. The situation is healthy because of the faithfulness of the presbytery's churches.

The presbytery VOTED to:

(2019 Camp Whitman Budget and 2019 Amended Presbytery Budget)

1. **Approve** the recommended 2019 Budget for Camp Whitman, with appreciation to the Camp Director for her help in the budget preparation process.
2. **Approve** the 2019 Revised Budget for the Presbytery of Geneva, which incorporates the amendments and adjustments made between November 2018 and January 2019. In November 2018, the presbytery approved continuing the 2018 Budget until the 2019 Budget could be finalized, in light of the changes in the presbytery's structure.

PERSONNEL

Stephen Beals, Chair, presented the report of the presbytery.

He reported that the Personnel Committee has approved the following position descriptions, which will be posted on the Presbytery Website:

- The Position Description for the Camp Whitman Director (full time). [See **Appendix C.**]
- The Position Description for the Stated Clerk. [See **Appendix D.**]

The Position Description for the Office Administrator is already on the website.

The presbytery offered its thanks to Alicia Alvarez, the current Office Administrator, who will be moving with her husband (the Rev. A.J. Tierson) to western Pennsylvania in the middle of February. The Transitional Leader presented her with gifts on behalf of the presbytery.

CLOSING MATTERS

(Resolution of Thanks)

Elder Barbara Stephens (Canisteo) presented the Resolution of Thanks:

We thank the United Church for hosting all of us—especially those brave enough to direct cars to park this morning.

Thank you for the delicious and long-awaited lunch, too.

We appreciate your hosting this presbytery meeting, with your own history of change and moving forward.

We encountered so many blessings at this meeting, from Deb Lind singing, to lives remembered, to new CREs (Connie and Paul), and new members (Daniel, Anita, and Denise).

We only wish we didn't have to lose some (like A.J. and Alicia) to gain some and grow, but that seems to be God's way.

Thank you, United Church, for showing us the way.

GATHERING FOR SACRAMENT AND SENDING

OUR CONTINUING PURPOSE

The presbytery VOTED to adjourn the meeting, following worship.

PRESBYTERY WORSHIP SERVICE

The presbytery entered into a time of worship, including the Service of the Lord's Supper. The service was led by the Rev. David Ashby and the Rev. Deb Lind, who officiated at the Lord's Table. The Rev. Ben Master (received during the November 2018 meeting and ordained in early December) presented the sermon.

The Rev. David Ashby offered the benediction at the conclusion of the Service of the Lord's Supper.

Attest: Val Fowler, Stated Clerk

ATTACHMENTS

ATTACHMENT A: Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy

ATTACHMENT A

Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults Protection Policy, Presbytery of Geneva

I. Statement of Purpose

The Presbytery of Geneva seeks to provide a safe and secure environment in which children, youth, and vulnerable adults can spiritually develop and are protected from inappropriate treatment of any kind. Our intent is: to protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults during all Presbytery events or activities; to educate staff and volunteers concerning pertinent issues; and to provide accountability to protect staff, volunteers and the Presbytery.

II. DEFINITIONS

The following is a comprehensive list of definitions of terms and their intended use in this policy:

Child, children, youth: Any person under the age of 18.

Child/ Youth Worker: Any person, volunteer or paid staff or contractor, who participates at any level at Presbytery entity sponsored events or activities involving children and/ or youth.

Child /Youth Abuse: Any act or failure to act that results in the physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional mistreatment, neglect, or exploitation of children, youth, or vulnerable adults.

Physical abuse – any physical injury to a child that is not accidental. This can include hitting, beating, shaking, burns, or biting.

Emotional abuse – emotional injury takes place when a child is not nurtured or provided with love and security. This can include threatening, yelling, constant criticism, belittling, bullying or constant teasing.

Sexual abuse – any sexual activity between an adult and child or between a child and another child at least four years older than the victim. This can include fondling, exhibitionism, intercourse, or pornography.

Neglect – depriving a child of his/her essential needs. This can include lack of provision of food, water, shelter or medical care.

Misuse of technology: The use of technology that results in the abusing of a child or youth.

Vulnerable Adult: Any person eighteen-years-old or older who may be receiving community care services because of learning, physical or mental disability, age, or illness, or who may be unable to take care of him or herself, or unable to protect him or herself against significant harm or exploitation; who is without the developmental or cognitive capacity to consent.

III. Mandatory Event Rules For Working With Children, Youth, and Vulnerable Adults

The following rules apply to all individuals who work with children or youth at any Presbytery event or activity.

A. Two Adult Rule

At any Presbytery event or activity with children, youth, or vulnerable adults there will be no less than two un-related approved adults present. For overnight activities, there should be at least one approved adult of each gender where appropriate.

B. Ratios:

The adult to child ratio for all child-related events/activities is 2:10. The adult to youth ratio for all youth-related events/activities is 2:17.

C. Designated Person

The Presbytery will ensure that there is an approved Designated Person responsible for safeguarding vulnerable adults ensuring their safety and well-being. This person must understand his/her responsibility to refer incidents of abuse to the relevant authorities.

D. Open Door Policy

All rooms set aside for children and youth must have a door with a clear window in it through which the room is visible. Otherwise, the door to the room shall remain open. Adults assisting small children or infants in bathrooms shall prop open the door.

E. Age of Volunteers

All child and youth workers must be at least 18 years of age and must be a minimum of four years older than the age group they lead or supervise. There may be times when it is permissible to use the services of youth, who are themselves under the age of 18, to assist in caring for younger children during Presbytery events or activities. In this case, the person must be at least 13 years old, must be under the supervision of an adult, and must never be left alone with children.

F. Discipline Policy

Under no circumstances is corporal punishment justified. There should be no spanking, grabbing, hitting, or other physical discipline of children. Volunteers should consult with the designated event leader if

assistance is needed with disciplinary issues.

G. Transportation:

All adult drivers at child/youth events must have proper licensure and insurance on file with the organizing council. All vehicles used must have seat belts for the driver and each passenger. All drivers transporting children and/or youth must be over the age of twenty-five and must be informed that if their vehicle is used, their insurance would be primary if an accident occurs.

H. Code of Conduct

- a. All volunteers and employees at any Presbytery child or youth events and activities must also abide by a code of conduct that emphasizes the following prohibited behaviors, including but not restricted to:
- b. Display of sexual affection toward a child.
- c. Use of profanity or off-color jokes.
- d. Discussion of sexual encounters
- e. Dating or becoming “romantically” involved with children, youth, or vulnerable adults.
- f. Using or being under the influence of alcohol or illegal drugs in the presence of children.
- g. Possessing sexually oriented materials—including printed or online pornography—on church property or property being utilized for a church event.
- h. Having secrets with youth/children.
- i. Staring at or commenting on children’s bodies.
- j. Engaging in inappropriate or unapproved electronic communication with children.
- k. Working one-on-one with children in a private setting.

IV. Screening of Child/Youth Workers

All persons desiring to work with children or youth at Presbytery events or activities will be screened and must be approved for service. The screening includes the following:

A. Reference Checks

Before working with children or youth, at least three of the applicant’s references will be checked.

Acceptable references may be received from the pastor or clerk of session from the person’s church affiliation, employment references, or references from other volunteer agencies.

B. Criminal Background Checks

All applicant child/ youth workers must complete and sign a background check consent and authorization form or give evidence of a background check within the three years. A criminal background check will be conducted for any and all volunteers seeking to work with children or youth at Presbytery events or activities. Any convictions for an offense involving children or youth will disqualify an individual for working with children and youth. Conviction for other offenses may also disqualify an applicant following consultation with the Presbytery’s insurance company. Failure to disclose a felony conviction on the application will also disqualify the applicant.

V. Responding to Allegations of Child, Youth, or Vulnerable Adult Abuse

- A. Allegations of any kind of abuse will be responded to using the same processes as outlined in the Presbytery’s sexual misconduct policy, whether or not those allegations are of a sexual nature.
- B. Any child/youth worker who becomes aware of or suspects any incidents of abuse or neglect of children or youth under care at a Presbytery event or activity, should report it immediately to the Event Coordinator, Presbytery Leader or Stated Clerk for further action, including reporting to authorities following applicable state laws.
- C. If an incident of abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred at a Presbytery event or activity, the parent or guardian of the child, youth, or vulnerable adult will be notified as soon as possible.
- D. The Presbytery’s insurance company will be notified, and an incident report will be filed. Any documents received related to the incident or allegations will be forwarded immediately to the insurance company.

Training

The Presbytery will provide periodic Boundary Awareness Training that will include the Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy to ensure that all members of the Presbytery staff and all volunteers serving youth and children are fully informed concerning the Policy guidelines.