

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 Tuesday September 24, 2019 at Camp Whitman, Penn Yan, New York..

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORSHIP AND WORK

GATHERING

3:00 pm Narcan Training
4:15 pm Registration, Fellowship, and Hors d'oeuvres
4:30 pm Orientation for New Commissioners

CALL TO ORDER

Elder Rob Anderson, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m., a quorum being present.

The Moderator offered the opening prayer

ROLL

ACTIVE MINISTERS SERVING CHURCHES

Amy Loving Austin; Stanley Bhasker; Betsy Crimmins; Aaron Frank; Katherine Griffis; Deborah Grohman; Gail Heimberger; Bruce Incze; Glenn Kennedy; Deborah Lind-Schmitz; Ben Masters; Christopher Mergener; Cara Milne; Leah Ntuala; Lucinda O'Leary; Cheryl Peebles; Sabrina Slater; Denise Stone; Jane Winters

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

David Ashby

HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS

Sam Edwards; Timothy Johnson

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS WITH VOICE AND VOTE

None

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

None.

ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Ken Allen (Canandaigua); Charles Stewart (Elmira, First); Jeff Richards (Elmira, North); Ed Frick (Geneva); Ellen Reynolds (Geneva); Lisa Sanford (Hornell); Bob Sell (Horseheads); Gail Farnham (Ithaca); Kristi Ward (Junius); Phil Updycke (Palmyra, Western); Rob Anderson (Penn Yan); Donald Peek (Pulteney); Priscilla Andrews (Rock Stream); Susan Derr (Seneca Falls); Constance L.W. Franks (Shortsville); Gail Maureen (Spencer); Carol MacLeod (Trumansburg); Beverly Hendrickson (Watkins Glen); Carol Merrell (Wolcott)

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Phoebe Baker (Penn Yan, COR); Tom Bailey (Spencer, Operations); Stephen Beals (Seneca Falls, Vitality); Virginia Champlin (Geneva, Synod Commissioner); Susan Frost (Candidate for Ministry); Linda Werts (Canandaigua; GA Commissioner); Connie Franks (Marion, CRE); Susan Orr (Presbytery Leader)

REGISTERED GUESTS (Current Meeting)

Lois Carter (Hector, PW); Lea Kone (Camp Whitman); Joe O'Leary; Marje Aude (Geneva); Jody Pruitt (Palmyra, Western, Triennium); Emily McFarlane (Palmyra, Western, Triennium); Cim McFarlane (Palmyra, Western, Triennium)

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING	Jan 26	Mar 19	May 28	July 9	Aug 13	Sept 24	Nov 19
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	27	26	26	18	14	22	
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	39	33	31	19	11	19	
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+ 12	+7	+5	+1	-3	-3	
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	11	11	20	26	31	17	
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders****	26	31	32	48	49	35	
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	19	20	20	34	36	25	
Total Registered Visitors	5	9	13	4	0	7	
Total Registered Attendance*****	72	68	70	41	25	56	

* 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

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The presbytery VOTED to approve the docket for the meeting:

[3:00 pm] Narcan Training

[4:15 pm] Registration, Fellowship, hors d'oeuvres (suggested donation \$5+)

[4:30 pm] Orientation for New Commissioners

[5:00 pm] Business Meeting
 Call to Order and Declaration of Quorum
 Opening Prayer
 Enrollment of Corresponding Members
 Approval of Docket
 Consent Agenda
 Welcome of New Elder Commissioners
 Welcome from RE Lea Kone, Camp Whitman Director
 Appointment of Person to offer a Resolution of Thanks
 Announcements relevant to the business meeting

[5:10 pm] Worship and The Lord's Supper

[5:45 pm] Business of the Presbytery
 Good News from the Congregations
 * To include your news in the minutes, please give a written copy to the Stated Clerk.
 Report of the Stated Clerk
 Committee on Mission and Witness (Rev. Ben Masters, Hector and Lodi)
 International Peacemaker – Peacemaking Banquet October 6, Geneva
 Session Mission Partnership grants and Hunger Ministry grants
 Synod Mission and Ministry (RE Virginia Champlin, Geneva)
 Presbyterian Triennium (Rev. Deb Lind, Geneva and Triennium attendees)
 Presbyterian Women
 Presentation on Presbyterian Women Mission Experience

Fall Gathering at Stony Point in October
Camp Whitman (RE Jeff Richards, Elmira North and RE Lea Kone, Camp Director)
Administrative Commissions
Elmira- Lake St.
Committee on Vitality (RE Stephen Beals, Seneca Falls)
Small Church Report
Committee on Leader Care (Rev. Bruce Inzce, Arkport)
Retreat at Camp Whitman in spring?
Pastors Emergency Fund – Offering for November meeting
Committee on Ministry (Rev. Ellen Donnan, Phelps)
Terms of Call for 2020
Other COM Business
General Council (Rev. Katherine Griffis, Hornell)
Committee on Operations (RE Tom Bailey, Spencer)
Distribution of Assets for Elmira Westminster
Committee on Representation (RE Phoebe Baker, Penn Yan)
Presbytery Leader Report
Mosaic of Peace

[7:40 pm] Closing Matters
Resolution of Thanks
Additional Announcements
Benediction – Extend a hand to neighbors to remind us all of our ordination

[7:45 pm] Adjournment

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, "Mr. Moderator, I would like to lift [say the item number] for discussion." No items were removed for discussion.

Items For Presbytery's Action

That the presbytery:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the May 28, 2019 stated meeting, held at The First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls, Seneca Falls, NY.
2. **Approve** the minutes of the July 9, 2019 called meeting, held at the Memorial Presbyterian Church, Bellona, NY.
3. **Approve** the minutes of the August 13, 2019 called meeting, held at the Presbytery of Geneva Office, Penn Yan, NY.
4. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
5. **Dismiss with thanks** the Administrative Commission for Romulus Presbyterian Church (Romulus).
6. **Dismiss with thanks** the Administrative Commission for the Westminster Presbyterian Church (Elmira)
7. **Receive** the following report of Cases before the presbytery under the Rules of Discipline:
 - The report at the May 28, 2019 Presbytery meeting that that Remedial Case R--2019-1 had been reviewed was premature. Following a challenge to the findings of the PJC moderator and PJC Clerk (in accordance with D-6.0306a), Remedial Case R-2019-1 was reviewed by the full Permanent Judicial Commission at a hearing on June 21, 2019. The finding of the Moderator and Clerk that the complaint does not state a claim upon which relief can be granted *was overturned*; therefore, Remedial Case R-2019-1 was approved to go to trial.
 - Prior to the scheduled trial, the Complainant and Respondent in Remedial Case R-2019-1 met and came to a mutual agreement; the Complainant formally withdrew all charges and the case was dismissed.
 - The Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of Geneva met on June 21, 2019, and approved the signed consent agreement and order of Disciplinary Case D-2018-01, the Presbytery of Geneva vs the Rev. John McDonald. This consent agreement and order stands as the final decision of the PJC in this case.

[Please note: At their meeting on October 8, 2019, the General Council of the Presbytery of Geneva -- wanting to respect and protect the victims of this case *and* follow the rule of the *Book of Order* which mandates that this decision be published in the minutes -- voted to publish the decision in the official minutes (the permanent copy) as ordered by our polity, while a redacted version of the decision will be published online.]

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CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER

Disciplinary Case D-2018-01

The Presbytery of Geneva v. Rev. John McDonald

The Presbytery of Geneva, through its Prosecuting Committee in this matter, and the accused, the Rev. John McDonald, do hereby consent and agree to the entry of this ORDER by the Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of Geneva:

Rev. John McDonald hereby pleads guilty to the following charges:

Charge 1

In early 2016, while serving as the Associate Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, NY, Rev. John McDonald, did commit the offense of "sexual abuse" — defined in the PCUSA Constitution (D10.0401c(2)) to include any "misuse of ordered ministry or position" of a sexual nature—and violated his ordination vows (W4.0404f,g), in that he was recklessly or negligently responsible for the exposure of his sexually explicit photos and texts to a young adult woman in the congregation who was disturbed upon viewing them. In particular, McDonald shared sexually explicit messages and photos with an adult gay male on an adult gay dating app who then shared the photos with the young woman in the congregation, who, it turned out, was a friend. Even though Rev. McDonald may not have known that the messages would be shared with the young woman, nonetheless he was negligent or reckless when sharing such sexually explicit messages with someone in a position to re-share them with a church member. The result of McDonald's conduct was that [REDACTED] the young woman who had recently and enthusiastically joined the church, suddenly stopped participating in the church community. Several months later, in June, Elder Christina Mead ran into her casually in the community and asked her about her absence. She confirmed to Elder Mead that a friend of hers had gone on a date with McDonald and that the friend had felt harassed with sexually explicit communications from McDonald to the point that he blocked further messages from McDonald on the gay dating app. When [REDACTED] friend showed her the communications, she was distressed to the point that she felt that she couldn't attend church anymore.

Charge 2

In February 2018, while serving as the Associate Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, NY, Rev. John McDonald, did commit the offense of "sexual abuse" — defined to include the 'misuse of ordered ministry or position' of a sexual nature (D10.0401c(2)) — and violated his ordination vows when he invited *20-year old* [REDACTED] an undergraduate student who had been singing in the choir of said church to his home at night. McDonald had been

drinking wine at his home while on Facebook Messenger with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] understood McDonald's invitation to have included an offer of wine. McDonald's invitation crossed a boundary, it made [REDACTED] uncomfortable, and was improper. This offense was committed after he had been previously warned by Rev. Kirianne Weaver-Riehl (Head of Staff) and Rev. Cynthia Weaver to cease and desist from similar conduct and failed to heed said warnings.

Charge 3

In or about February of 2018, while serving as the Associate Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, NY, Rev. John McDonald, did commit the offense of sexual abuse— defined to include "misuse of ordered ministry or position" of a sexual nature (D-10.0401c(2)) — and violated his ordination vows (W4.0404f,g), in regards to the sharing of sexually explicit and inappropriate photos and messages with [REDACTED] an undergraduate student who had been attending said church, through electronic and/or other communications, including text messages. According to McDonald, McDonald previously had shared sexually explicit photos with an adult gay male who McDonald formerly had dated. The gay male friend subsequently shared McDonald's photos and messages with [REDACTED] whom he had met through a gay dating app. [REDACTED] was disturbed, offended, and harassed by the sharing. Even though McDonald may not have known that his photos would be shown to [REDACTED] he nonetheless was recklessly or negligently responsible for [REDACTED] having been exposed to sexually explicit material originating with McDonald. [REDACTED] believed and continues to believe that the person who contacted him and shared McDonald's sexually explicit photos and messages and encouraged [REDACTED] to date McDonald was none other than McDonald himself pretending to be someone else through the use of an anonymous online identity. This offense was committed after McDonald had been previously warned by Rev. Kirianne Weaver-Riehl (Head of Staff) and Rev. Cynthia Weaver to cease and desist from similar conduct and failed to heed said warnings.

ORDER

WHEREAS, you, Rev. John McDonald, have pleaded guilty to the offenses of "sexual abuse" — defined in the PCUSA Constitution (D10.0401c(2)) to include any "misuse of ordered ministry or position" of a sexual nature—and violated your ordination vows (W4.0404f,g), and by such offenses you have acted contrary to the Scriptures and the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.);

NOW, THEREFORE, the Presbytery of Geneva, in the name and by the authority of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), does now declare you TEMPORARILY EXCLUDED FROM THE EXERCISE OF ORDERED MINISTRY until such time as you have satisfactorily completed a rehabilitation program supervised by the Committee on Ministry of the Presbytery of Geneva ("COM"), as described below:

1. COM shall have sole, full, and complete authority to supervise Rev. McDonald's rehabilitation, subject only to this Permanent Judicial Commission's authority over

this Consent Agreement and Order. The following terms shall govern Rev. McDonald's rehabilitation:

- a. Rev. McDonald will attend and satisfactorily complete the intensive Clergy Program at the Davidson Center for Professions, if he has not already done so. COM has previously agreed that payment for this shall be made as follows: 1/3 from the Presbytery of Geneva, 1/3 from a Counseling Fund given by First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca, and 1/3 from Rev. McDonald (Letter from Rev. Adrian J. Tierson, Co-chair to Rev. John McDonald, dated Apr. 4, 2018).
 - b. Rev. McDonald shall also attend on-going therapy sessions with a licensed professional counselor no less than twice-a-month until such time as his temporary exclusion is lifted. The subject of these therapy sessions shall include, but not be limited to, developing an understanding of why he behaved as he did toward the persons injured by his behavior and how to prevent any such incidences from occurring again though modification of his behavior. Rev. McDonald is responsible for the costs of this therapy.
 - c. Rev. McDonald shall execute any and all necessary releases for Davidson Center counseling staff and any and all other professional counselors to discuss his condition and progress with members of COM and to release copies of any and all written reports for their review and shall cooperate fully with COM to ensure this occurs. Rev. McDonald shall facilitate the sharing of these reports with COM. This provision shall remain in effect for the full period of his temporary exclusion. The COM shall promptly inform Rev. McDonald whether the reports previously received demonstrate satisfactory completion of this condition, and, if not, specify what is lacking.
 - d. Within 45 days of any application for restoration by Rev. McDonald under D-12.0104h, i (paragraphs 6-7 of this ORDER), COM shall prepare and deliver a written recommendation to the Presbytery of Geneva, through its Stated Clerk, regarding whether it believes that his application should be granted based on his compliance with the terms of this ORDER and reports received from his therapists. Rev. McDonald shall ensure that any and all such reports are submitted to the COM and are up-to-date as of the date of his application.
 - e. After receiving Rev. McDonald's application for restoration and the recommendation of COM, the Presbytery of Geneva shall take up the application at its next stated meeting wherein time is reasonably available on the docket to do so.
2. Rev. McDonald shall acknowledge his guilt in separate written letters sent to the last known addresses of Mr. [REDACTED] Mr. [REDACTED] his sincere repentance of his actions as described in this ORDER. Copies of these

letters shall be submitted by Rev. McDonald to COM before being sent, and COM will promptly inform Rev. McDonald whether the letters satisfy this condition. Compliance with this paragraph shall be considered a required term of Rev. McDonald's supervised rehabilitation and a condition precedent to the lifting of the censure of temporary exclusion from the practice of ordered ministry (D-12.0104c).

3. During the period of temporary exclusion from ordered ministry, Rev. McDonald shall refrain from the exercise of any function of ordered ministry as a Teaching Elder or Minister of Word and Sacrament of the Presbyterian Church (USA) or any other religious body (D-12.0104d).
4. During the period of temporary exclusion from the exercise of ordered ministry, Rev. McDonald shall refrain from participating and voting in meetings and from holding or exercising any office in the Presbyterian Church (USA) or any of its congregations and councils (D-12.0104e).
5. The Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Geneva shall immediately send the information of the action taken in this ORDER to the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly as required by D-12.0104g.
6. Rev. McDonald shall apply in writing to the Presbytery of Geneva, through the stated clerk, for restoration upon the completion of the supervised rehabilitation pronounced. The Presbytery of Geneva shall approve the restoration when it is fully satisfied that the supervised rehabilitation pronounced has been satisfactorily completed (D-12.0104h).
7. Rev. McDonald may apply in writing to the Presbytery of Geneva, through the stated clerk, to be restored prior to the completion of the supervised rehabilitation fixed in the censure. The Presbytery of Geneva may approve such a restoration when it is fully satisfied that the action is justified (D-12.0104i).
8. If Rev. McDonald makes an application for restoration and it is denied by the Presbytery of Geneva, the period of his temporary exclusion from the exercise of ordained ministry shall continue until such time as Rev. McDonald makes an application that is successfully granted by the Presbytery of Geneva.
9. The Prosecuting Committee and Rev. McDonald hereby waive any right of appeal from this CONSENT AGREEMENT AND ORDER.

IT IS SO AGREED:

Prosecuting Committee

Rev. Jeffrey E. Ugoretz
Rev. Jeffrey E. Ugoretz, Chair

Date: June 20, 2019

Accused

John McDonald
Rev. John McDonald

Date: 6/19/2019

ON THIS 21ST day of June, 2019, IT IS SO ORDERED:

Permanent Judicial Commission of the Presbytery of Geneva

Robert Sell
Elder Robert Sell, Moderator

Rev. Thomas D. Montgomery
Rev. Thomas Montgomery, Clerk

Items For Presbytery's Information

(Ordination Anniversaries)

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. 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)

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. 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)

(Necrology)

The Rev. Gilmore Creelman passed away on September 5, 2019. He served faithfully as a Minister of Word and Sacrament for 56 years. Our prayers are with his family and friends.

WELCOME OF NEW ELDER COMMISSIONERS

The presbytery welcomed guests and new and first-time elder commissioners:

Charles Stewart (Elmira, First)

Lois Carter (Presbyterian Women)

WELCOME FROM THE HOST: CAMP WHITMAN

Elder Lea Kone, Camp Whitman Director, warmly welcomed the presbytery to Camp Whitman.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Moderator appointed Rev. Cara Milne (Watkins Glen) to prepare a *Resolution of Thanks*, to be presented at the end of the meeting.

REFLECTION ON THE WORD & LORD’S SUPPER

PRESBYTERY WORSHIP SERVICE

The presbytery engaged in a summer camp-style service of worship, led by the Rev. Deborah Lind-Schmitz (Geneva) and Elder Stephen Beals (Seneca Falls), as well as Triennium attendees: Emily McFarlane and Jody Pruitt. The presbytery did a fine job of calling themselves to worship by joining in an “energizer” led by the PYT participants. Rev. Ben Masters (Hector/Lodi) presided at the Lord’s Table as the presbytery shared communion by intinction.

BUSINESS OF THE PRESBYTERY

GOOD NEWS FROM THE CHURCHES

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

- A work team of 8 members from the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca will be traveling to New Bern, NC, on October 13 for a week of rebuilding with Presbyterian Disaster Assistance.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Stated Clerk Rev. Amy Loving Austin read the report of Remedial Case R-2019-1 and the decision of Disciplinary Case D-2018-01 (as required by the *Book of Order* D-7.0701 and D-11.0701, and as included in the Consent Agenda), *noting that the full decision would be entered upon the minutes of this meeting.*

- There was a question about the appropriateness of reading the D-2018-01 decision and including it in the meeting documents. The Stated Clerk explained that this is required by the *Book of Order* and was confirmed by the General Assembly Office.
- There was a request to password-protect the full decision of D-2018-01 to limit outside access to the document. It is required that the full decision be entered into the minutes of this meeting (Appendix A). The Clerk stated that she would consult with the GA Office and General Council to determine the best way to both honor the requirements of the *Book of Order* and desire to protect the identities of victims in this case.

COMMITTEE ON MISSION & WITNESS

Rev. Ben Masters (Hector/Lodi) presented the report of the Committee on Mission & Witness:

- The international peacemaker, Lucy Awate Dabi, will be visiting our presbytery from October 3-7, 2019.
- Churches are invited to nominate a “peacemaker of the year” from their congregation to be recognized at the peacemaking banquet. Nomination forms are due on Thursday, September 26, 2019.
- The Council has approved the following award recommendations for Session Mission Partnership grants and Hunger Ministry grants:

2019 Grant Applications	Hunger Grant Funds Requested	Session Mission Partnership Grant Funds Requested	Hunger Grant Funds Awarded	Session Mission Partnership Grant Funds Awarded
<i>Church & Project</i>				
Bath, Community Food Pantry	\$1,200			\$1,200
Corning, Baby Food Project	\$5,000			\$5,000
Corning, Meals on Wheels	\$5,000			\$5,000
Corning, Bampa's House		\$10,000		\$0
Elmira, First, Senior Care		\$3,000		\$3,000
Elmira, First, Health Meets Food		\$3,000		\$3,000
Geneva, Bridges for Hope		\$5,000		\$5,000
Geneva, Emergency Needs Fund	\$1,000			\$1,000
Geneva, Food Pantry	\$1,400			\$1,400
Geneva, Geneva Reads		\$900		\$900

Geneva, Ontario-Yates Hospice		\$1,075		1,075
Geneva, Project Food Security	\$3,500			\$3,500
Geneva, Village Lienks		\$1,500		1,500
Hornell, Community Garden	\$500			500
Hornell, Faith in Action		\$4,500		\$4,500
Ithaca, Protestant Cooperative at Cornell		\$1,500		\$1,500
Junius, Free Community Meals	\$5,000			\$850
Newark, Newark Food Closet	\$1,200		\$125	\$1,075
Ontario Center, The Shared Table		\$1,000		\$1,000
Ovid, Food Pantry	\$5,000		\$500	\$4,500
Painted Post, Food Pantry	\$2,000		\$2,000	
Palmyra, Good Neighbor Fund		\$3,000		\$3,000
Palmyra, Pal-Mac Food Pantry	\$3,000		\$3,000	
Seneca Falls, House of Concern	\$5,000		\$2,500	
Sodus, Family Promise of Wayne County		\$1,500		\$1,500
Trumansburg, Ulysses Food Pantry	\$1,000		\$1,000	
Watkins Glen, Habitat for Humanity		\$1,000		\$0
Weston, Bradford Food Pantry	\$1,000		\$1,000	
Weston, Tyrone Food Pantry	\$1,000		\$1,000	
Totals	\$46,300	\$3,6975	\$11,125	\$50,000

SYNOD MISSION AND MINISTRY

Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva) presented the report of Synod Mission and Ministry:

- The Come to the Table event is scheduled for November 8-9, 2019. Virginia Champlin will collect names of those attending and work on a possible carpool.

PRESBYTERIAN TRIENNIUM

Rev. Deborah Lind-Schmitz (Geneva) as well as Triennium attendees Emily McFarlane (Palmyra, Western) and Jody Pruitt (Palmyra, Western) presented the report of the 2019 Presbyterian Youth Triennium:

- Presbyterian Youth Triennium is a gathering for high school age youth from the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Cumberland Presbyterian Church that occurs every three years. The 2019 event was held July 16-20, 2019 at Purdue University. The theme for the 2019 event was "Here's My Heart", taken from the hymn *Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing*.
- There was quite a bit of walking involved, but the real highlight was all of the relationships that developed and grew during their time together - with their group of youth and leaders, as well as with youth from all over the country and globe.
- Youth enjoyed passing the peace in a different language at every worship service. The energy and exuberance at the worship services, where youth connected to God and scripture, was inspirational.
- Several of the youth who attended have expressed interest in returning as PYT leaders in future years.

PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN

Elders Linda Werts (Canandaigua), Virginia Champlin (Geneva), and Lois Carter (Hector) presented the report from Presbyterian Women:

- (From www.presbyterianwomen.org) "The USA Mission Experience takes a group of Presbyterian Women to a part of the United States to connect concerns raised by past Global Exchanges with similar issues in

the United States. With local mission projects as partners, the participants combine education with hands-on ministry during the weeklong trip. Participants encounter challenges to God's promise of a beloved community and witness the faithful responses of Christians living and working in difficult situations."

"A group of Presbyterian women will travel to the Finger Lakes Region of New York, July 12–22, 2019, for PW's fifth USA Mission Experience. They will explore the rich history that Presbyterian women have in the women's and civil rights movements. These women will also have the opportunity to learn more about themselves and about the people of the Finger Lakes Region, including migrant workers and Native Americans."

"Highlights of the journey will include a day in Seneca Falls at the Women's Convention at the National Women's Hall of Fame; a visit to the Susan B. Anthony home; and a visit to the Harriet Tubman House. The USA Mission Experience equips women with an understanding of the region's history and culture, the existing ministry of the church there and the challenges faced by women and children living in the area. Participants serve as ambassadors for the region during two years of itineration following the experience."

- The PW representatives shared a slide show which highlighted the recent USAME here in the Finger Lakes region, which our Presbytery helped to plan and organize. Virginia Champlin was especially recognized for her hard work for making this event possible - and helping to make it such a wonderful success. The slide show is available for viewing on the Presbytery's website.

CAMP WHITMAN

Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North), Elder Lea Kone (Camp Whitman Director), and Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls) presented the report from Camp Whitman:

- The committee stayed at Camp Whitman for a committee retreat September 20-21, using the time to work on a mission statement. The first draft of the mission statement: *Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake lives for those who are longing for belonging, seeking connection with community and creation, respite from chaos and competition, and an opportunity to encounter both the Holy and themselves.*
- A total of 384 people were served by Camp Whitman in 2019:
 - 258 Residential Camp Whitman Campers (97 Pine Campers, 161 Traditional Campers)
 - 51 Youth Group Kids, 30 Youth Group Campers
 - 36 Day Group Kids, 9 Day Group Chaperones
 - Day Group: Cameron Community Ministries
 - Youth Groups: Camp Quin, First Pres – Ithaca, Lake Street Pres – Elmira, Wilson Commencement Park
 - Highlights included: 3 campers from China and 5 campers from RAIHN (partial scholarship funding from Pittsford Presbyterian Church)
 - The camp continues to benefit from a partnership with the DRIVE program of Keuka College and the Yates County ARC.
- Campers benefitted from \$3,900 total in scholarship funding
 - 5 Full Scholarships for RAIHN campers
 - 11 Partial Scholarships (Average \$100)
- Thank you to Chaplains: Bruce Incze, Kirianne Riehl and James Renfrew.
- Thank you to all of the "small but mighty" Fall Volunteer Days attendees!
- The Fall Festival went well, with 60 people attending (including volunteers and staff).
- \$233,300 has been raised for the Capital Campaign to date, with \$16,700 remaining.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSIONS

(Lake Street)

Elder Rob Anderson provided an update on the Lake Street AC. The members of the AC have been named and agreed to serve:

Rev. Denise Stone (Big Flats)

Rev. Jim Hicks (HR)

Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)

Elder Rehana Stanley (Elmira, First)

Rev. Jeff Ugoretz (Corning)

They will now receive training so they may begin their work.

COMMITTEE ON VITALITY

Elder Stephen Beals (Seneca Falls) presented the report of the Committee on Vitality:

- The committee has approved 2 Small Church Program Grants: one to Shortsville Presbyterian Church and another to West Fayette Presbyterian Church. There is still more grant money available, and churches are urged to apply.
- There will be a Spiritual Gifts Workshop for all churches on Saturday, October 19 from 9-noon, at the Penn Yan First Presbyterian Church.

COMMITTEE ON LEADER CARE

Rev. Bruce Incze (Arkport) presented the report of the Committee on Leader Care:

- The Presbytery of Geneva maintains an Emergency Assistance Fund to aid pastoral leaders, including CREs. When an emergency arises in the life of one of our pastors and financial assistance is needed, a request for aid can be made to the Presbytery Leader. This request will be treated in confidence. After Personal Identifying Information (PII) is removed, the Presbytery Leader will consult with the Chairperson of the Leader Care Committee to consider the request. Additionally, if the Presbytery Leader determines that the situation may be eligible for matching funds from the Board of Pensions, the Presbytery Leader will contact the Board.
- There is currently \$536.28 in the fund. Please consider contributing to the health of this fund so that as a presbytery we are prepared to appropriately and discretely address emergency needs of our pastors in a timely manner. The worship offering from our November meeting of the presbytery has been designated to go into this fund.
- The LCC welcomes your feedback about what else they could be doing in the presbytery. Also, if you know of a need, please let the committee know.

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Elder Ken Allen (Canandaigua) presented the report of the Committee on Ministry:

Items For Presbytery's Action

The Presbytery VOTED to:

- **Approve** the following Minimum Salary Guidelines for 2020:
 - The 2020 Guidelines include raising the minimum salary by the COLA adjustment rate as of September 15, 2019: 2.6%.
 - The 2020 Guidelines will include a challenge for congregations to increase salaries and additional 0.5%, based on merit.
- **Approve** the transfer of membership of the Rev. John Milne from the Presbytery of Monmouth to the Presbytery of Geneva, effective September 24, 2019.

Actions Taken On Behalf Of The Presbytery

Acting on behalf of presbytery, the Committee VOTED to:

- **Approve** naming the Rev. Kyle Delhagen to serve as the Moderator of the East Palmyra session, beginning July 1, 2019.
- **Approve** Elder Paul Yoder, CRE, as Moderator for Moreland Presbyterian Church in Beaver Dams, NY.
- **Affirm** the change in terms of call for Rev. Ellen Donnan from ½ time to ¼ time at Junius.
- **Approve** granting Pastor Emeritus status on Rev. Dr. Robert A. Edmunds.

Items For The Presbytery's Information

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- **Approve** the amended covenant between Canandaigua United and the Rev. David Ashby. *Addendum to the Covenant Agreement for Interim Pastor signed on July 17, 2018 here attached, between the Geneva Presbytery and Reverend Dr. W. David Ashby and in Concurrence with the Official Board of the United Church of Canandaigua. Paragraph 6 of the Agreement shall be removed in its entirety and replaced with:*
6. This agreement is for a period of 12 months commencing on August 1, 2018. The agreement will terminate on July 31, 2019 with no further compensation or benefits. The Interim Pastor shall be on

Paid Leave which will include all accrued Study Leave time and Vacation from May 6, 2019 to July 31, 2019. To allow the church to develop independence during the time of the Paid Leave the Interim Pastor will abide by the ethical standards normally agreed to when a Pastor is no longer the active Pastor. Any required communications shall be made through the Official Board representative.

Paragraph 8 of the Agreement to be removed in its entirety.

Paragraph 9 of the Agreement to be removed in its entirety and replaced with:

9. The Interim Pastor will receive no compensation or severance after July 31, 2019 and agrees to seek full time employment during his Paid Leave from May 6, 2019 to July 31, 2019. The Interim Pastor's compensation and benefits will terminate upon full-time employment in another position.

- **Approve** the one-year covenant between Phelps United and the Rev. Ellen Donnan, as transitional pastor, to begin July 1, 2019. Rev. Donnan would be employed on a Three-Quarter-Time basis and compensated as follows:

Cash Salary:	\$ 30,000
Housing Allowance:	\$ 20,167
Pension/Medical	\$ 18,562
Travel Expenses:	\$ 500 (All church related travel compensated per IRS rate)
Study/Prof. Exp	\$ 750
Vacation Time:	31 days, including 4 Sundays
Study Leave:	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
- **Approve** naming the Rev. Ellen Donnan to serve as the Moderator of the Phelps United Church session.
- **Disallow** Frank Williams to be approved on the pulpit supply list; the COM is concerned with his non-reformed theology, his disregard of any ecclesial authority or oversight, his refusal to meet with the COM, and lack of verified ecclesiastical status.
- **Approve** the Rev. David Ashby for engagement in validated ministry at the First Congregational Church of Christ in Corning, NY, effective July 1, 2019.
- **Approve** the covenant between the Rev. Walter Stuber and the First Presbyterian Church of Wolcott (renewal; nothing changed).
- **Inform** Rev. John McDonald that the apology letters he submitted meet the minimum requirements and they may be sent to those named in the PJC Order.
- **Approve** the covenant between CRE Connie Franks and Shortsville.

Total compensation: \$10,376.02 (Monthly: \$1,019 - Cash, \$548.75 - Housing, \$119.92 - SECA, \$250 - Study Leave; 2 weeks for study leave/vacation IRS, mileage rate) based on 6 months This agreement is for a period of 6 months commencing on July 20, 2019. This agreement may be terminated by either party upon 30 days written notice.

REMINDERS:

- Valuable information and resources -- including the updated pulpit supply list -- may be found on the website at <http://www.presbyteryofgeneva.org/committee-on-ministry-2>.
- If / When you need to contact the chairperson of the COM, please email: com@presbyteryofgeneva.org.

GENERAL COUNCIL

Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell) presented the report of the General Council:

Items For The Presbytery's Action

None.

Items For The Presbytery's Information

The General Council VOTED to:

(Presbytery Meetings)

- **Call** a special meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva to be held at the Memorial Presbyterian Church of Bellona at 1:30 p.m. on July 9, 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to take action on:
 - the recommendation of the Search Committee to approve the call of Ruling Elder Susan B. Orr to the position of Presbytery Leader effective July 15, 2019.
 - the recommendation of the General Council that the Rev. Aaron Frank (Horseheads) be elected to serve on the Committee on Representation, class of 2019.
- **Call** a special meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva to be held at the Presbytery of Geneva Office at 1:00 p.m. on August 13, 2019. The purpose of the meeting is to take action on:
 - the request of the COM and Session of Lake Street Presbyterian Church (Elmira) to form and elect an Administrative Commission to work with the Lake Street Presbyterian Church (Elmira).
- **Approve** asking for a suggested minimum donation of \$5 per person enjoying the hors d'oeuvres at the September presbytery meeting to go to support Camp Whitman operations.
- **Approve** the following schedule for Presbytery Meetings in 2020-2021:
 - Saturday, January 25, 2020 at 9:30 am (Hector)
 - Tuesday, March 24, 2020 at 9:30 am (location: TBA)
 - Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 5:00 pm (location: TBA)
 - Tuesday, September 22, 2020 at 5:00 pm (location: TBA)
 - Tuesday, November 17, 2020 at 9:30 am (location: TBA)
 - Saturday, January 23, 2021 at 9:30 am (location: TBA)

(Presbyterian Women)

- **Issue a resolution of thanks** for Virginia Champlin, recognizing her hard work for making the 2019 PW USA Mission Experience possible - and helping to make it such a wonderful success.

(PCUSA Co-Moderators Visit Request)

- **Empower** the Stated Clerk to complete the request form to ask for the Co-Moderators' presence at our November 2019 or January 2020 stated meeting; if that is not when they are available, the Council will work with when the Co-Moderators are available.

(Leader Care Committee / Pastor Emergency Fund)

- **Approve** the November Presbytery meeting offering be designated for the Pastor Emergency Fund.
- **Approve** the LCC sending a written appeal to all pastoral leaders in the presbytery to donate to the Pastor Emergency Fund.

(Mission & Witness / Mission Grants)

- **Approve** the award recommendations for Session Mission Partnership Grants and Hunger Ministry Grants.

(Personnel)

- **Approve** that Elena Delhagen, Office Administrator, be permitted to work remotely from her home, as necessary, June 24 th – August 31st, in order to facilitate her daughter's adjustment. Elena will be expected to spend at least one day a week in the Presbytery office in Penn Yan, and to report her work hours to Tom Bailey, as chair of the Committee on Operations.
- **Approve** granting whatever needed time away that Elena Delhagan may need when she needs to return to Liberia to bring their daughter home; the Council also **approved** continuing to pay her during that time.

- **Approve** Linda Badger Becker, Transitional Presbytery Leader, forgoing taking vacation the week of June 24, and instead receiving a week of compensation for accrued vacation June 30 – July 6.

(New Presbytery Structure Evaluation)

- **Postpone** the six-month evaluation of the new structure until our October Council meeting. All committee reps should ask their committees for feedback to share when we meet next month.

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS

Elder Tom Bailey (Spencer) presented the report of the Committee on Operations:

Items For The Presbytery's Action

The presbytery VOTED to:

- **Approve** the recommended distribution of the net assets of the Westminster Church

The net assets shall be allocated as follows:

Available:	Sale	\$76,621.80
	Checking:	<u>\$40,776.06</u>
		\$117,297.86

Distribution Proposal:

Community Foundation	\$35,000.00
Mission Support Fund	\$40,000.00
Per Capita Reserve	\$20,500.00
Small Church Fund	\$10,000.00
Camp Whitman Scholarships	<u>\$11,797.86</u>
	\$117,296.86

Items For The Presbytery's Information

(2020 Budget)

- The Committee is preparing the 2020 Annual Budget. It will be presented at the November meeting for preliminary approval and final approval will be made at the January, 2020 meeting. It is our intent not to increase the per capita charge.

(Sale of the Romulus Building)

- The Romulus building has been sold. The distribution of the net assets will be made at the November meeting.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Elder Phoebe Baker (Penn Yan) presented the report of the Committee on Representation:

Items For The Presbytery's Action

The presbytery VOTED to:

- **Approve** the election of Elder Ellen Reynolds (Geneva) to complete an unexpired term on the Committee of Mission and Witness, Class of 2019.

Items For The Presbytery's Information

(2020 General Assembly Commissioner Applications)

- The committee is seeking female Teaching Elders and male Ruling Elders to serve as Commissioners to the 2020 General Assembly. Those interested should let the committee know by October 15 of their interest in serving as Commissioners or alternate Commissioners to the 2020 General Assembly to be held in Baltimore, June 19 – June 27, 2020.

(2020 General Assembly Young Adult Advisory Delegate Applications)

- All churches in the Presbytery are invited to submit names to be considered to serve as the Young Adult Advisory Delegate to this same 2020 General Assembly, again, June 19 – June 27. Applicants should be between the ages of 17 and 23 years old, demonstrate active service in their local Presbyterian congregations, and an interest in the workings of the larger church. Applications should be submitted by November 1, 2019.

(Vice Moderator, Class of 2020)

- The committee has sent out the invitation to serve as Vice Moderator of the Presbytery, Class of 2020. Please carefully consider these invitations to share your gifts with the Presbytery or the General Assembly.

PRESBYTERY LEADER REPORT

Elder Susan Orr presented her report:

- She is happily getting to know more people throughout the presbytery. She has been able to worship with several churches in the presbytery; let her know if you would like her to worship with your congregation.
- Balancing work between two presbyteries (Geneva and Genesee Valley) is challenging, and it has Susan Orr (quite literally) wearing different hats.
- The 90-day evaluation for the Presbytery Leader is fast approaching. Please reach out to the Operations Committee if you have feedback that you wish to share.
- Susan Orr will be participating in the Mosaic of Peace trip to Israel/Palestine in March of 2020. She is a co-director for the event. All are invited to participate. For more information on the trip, visit <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/peacemaking/mosaic/>. Applications may be completed online and are due October 15, 2019.

CLOSING MATTERS

(Resolution of Thanks)

Rev. Cara Milne joyfully presented the resolution of thanks.

ADJOURNMENT

The presbytery VOTED to **adjourn** the meeting.

The presbytery stood and held hands as the meeting was concluded with prayer and benediction by the Vice Moderator, Rev. Glenn Kennedy (Painted Post).

The presbytery meeting was adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk