

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, January 25, 2020 at Hector Presbyterian Church, Hector, New York.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

8:45 am Registration and Fellowship Time (through 9:25 am)
9:25 am Gathering for Shared Work

CALL TO ORDER

Elder Rob Anderson, Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m., a quorum being present.

The Moderator offered the opening prayer

ROLL

ACTIVE MINISTERS SERVING CHURCHES

Stanley Bhasker (First, Bath); Betsey Crimmins (First, Elmira); Ellen Donnan (Junius & United, Phelps); Aaron Frank (First, Horseheads); Gail Heimberger (First, Sodus); Bruce Incze (First, Arkport); Deborah Lind-Schmitz (The, Geneva); Amy Loving Austin (Bellona & Seneca #9); Paul Malles (First, Penn Yan); Ben Masters (Hector & Lodi); Rob Mellgard (Federated, Ovid); Christopher Mergener (Park, Newark); Anita Milne (First, Waterloo); Cara Milne (First, Watkins Glen); Cheryl Peebles (First Ulysses, Trumansburg); Kirianne Riehl (First, Ithaca); Sabrina Slater (Christ the King, Spencer); Cindy Weaver (First, Ithaca);

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE

David Ashby (VM); Glenn Kennedy (AL); Jane Winters (AL)

HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS

Phillip Courtney; James Hicks; Timothy Johnson; James Kerr; Fred Magley; John Milne; Carol Wilson

ELDER COMMISSIONERS FROM CHURCHES

Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta); Kathleen Swan (First, Bath); Rehana Stanley (First, Elmira); Ted Peet (Lake Street, Elmira); Annie LeFevre (North, Elmira); Gary Harman (The, Geneva); John Hovey (The, Geneva); Linda Hayes (Huron); Gail Farnham (First, Ithaca); Judy Mellgard (Federated, Ovid); Phil Opdycke (Western, Palmyra); Sue Goodriche (First, Penn Yan); Mary Ann Gier (United, Phelps); Keith Blackall (First, Sodus); Kerm Bossard (Christ the King, Spencer); Carol MacLeod (First Ulysses, Trumansburg); Ruth Eads (First, Waterloo); Marzie Lewis (First, Waterloo)

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS

Tom Bailey (Christ the King, Spencer); Virginia Champlin (The, Geneva); Rob Anderson (First, Penn Yan); Pricilla Andrews (Rock Stream); Dick Evans (Burdett); Connie Franks (United, Marion); Stephen Beals (First, Seneca Falls); Bob Sell (First, Horseheads); John Gingerich (First, Wolcott); Paul Yoder (First, Horseheads); Ken Allen (United, Canandaigua); Jeff Richards (North, Elmira); Donna Colvin (First, Pulteney); Irene Fadden (Western, Palmyra);

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS (granted voice)

Elder Rick Ufford-Chase (Hudson River Presbytery, Moderator of the 216th General Assembly)

PRESBYTERY STAFF (granted voice)

Susan Orr (Genesee Valley Presbytery); Elena Delhagen (Palmyra, Western); Lea Kone (Genesee Valley Presbytery)

REGISTERED GUESTS (Current Meeting; Granted Voice for the purpose of giving reports)

Mike Stanley (First, Elmira); Pat Holmstrom (First, Elmira); Tom Leslie (First, Elmira); Eileen Leslie (First, Elmira); Alida Schamel (First, Elmira); Joanne Tunison (First, Elmira); Marcia Metcalfe (First, Elmira); Dottie Tholfsen (First, Elmira); Michael Crimmins (First, Elmira); Rick Ufford-Chase (Hudson River Presbytery); Julie Wellington (Lake Street, Elmira); Lisa Gage (The, Geneva); Kris Alling (First Ulysses, Trumansburg); Suzanne Courney (First, Ithaca); Shirley Kennedy (United, Painted Post); Susan Frost (Presbytery of Geneva); Linda Werts (United, Canandaigua); Mary Evans (Burdett); Diane Incze (Arkport)

EXCUSED COMMISSIONERS (Elders and Ministers)

Rev. Harold Delhagen; Rev. Kyle Delhagen; Rev. Janice Fitzgerald; Rev. Jim Gerling; Rev. Katherine Griffis; Rev. Susan Husted; Rev. Leah Ntuala; Rev. Lucinda O'Leary; Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz; Rev. J. Christy Wareham; Elder Lisa Sanford (United, Hornell); Elder Joe O'Leary (Rock Stream); Rev. Adrian Tierson;

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2020	Jan 25	Mar 24	May 26	Sept 22	Nov 17
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	28				
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	32				
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+ 4				
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	8				
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders****	37				
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors	28				
Total Registered Visitors and Staff	22				
Total Registered Attendance*****	82				

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

** Includes Corresponding Members with voice and vote

*** Does not include Corresponding Members with voice only; Honorably Retired Ministers; and Excused Minister Members.

**** 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:

8:45 AM Registration and fellowship time (through 9:25)

9:25 AM Gathering for Shared Work

9:30 AM Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer

9:35 AM Introductory Business
Approval of the Docket
Enrollment of Corresponding Members
Welcome of New Elder Commissioners
Privilege of the Floor
Call for New Business (action items only)

Announcements
Welcome from the Host Church
Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land

Announcements relevant to the business meeting

Consent Agenda

9:45 AM Business Related to Congregations and Leaders:

Committee on Ministry [RE Ken Allen (Canandaigua), Member]

Concurrence of Dissolution: Rev. Cheryl Peebles and First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses, Trumansburg

Concurrence of Dissolution: Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins and First Presbyterian Church, Elmira

Designation of Honorable Retirement: Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins

Change in Charge for the Lake Street Presbyterian Administrative Commission

10:35 AM Internal Business

Committee on Operations [Rev. David Ashby (VM), Chair]

Approve the Proposed 2020 Budget

Report of the Stated Clerk

Report of the Presbytery Leader

10:55 AM Business Related to Mission:

Vital Congregations Initiative

[Rev. Ben Masters (Hector/Lodi) and Rev. Cara Milne (Watkins Glen, First), Facilitators]

11:10 AM

Worship & The Lord's Supper

Necrology Report

Installation of Moderator & Vice Moderator

12:25 PM Closing Matters

Resolution of Thanks

Additional announcements

12:30 PM Benediction and Adjournment

ENROLLMENT OF CORRESPONDING MEMBERS

Rick Ufford-Chase (Hudson River Presbytery)

WELCOME OF NEW ELDER COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

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

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR

The Presbytery VOTED to grant voice to corresponding

CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS (action items only)

WELCOME FROM THE HOST: FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HECTOR, NY

The Rev. Ben Masters welcomed the Presbytery to Hector Presbyterian Church. The church celebrated its bicentennial in 2009, and we were invited to look at the beautiful quilt that was pieced together to honor their many years in faithful ministry in this place. "The town of Hector is a lot like that quilt: we're all different, with lots of variation in politics, income, and life experiences, but we're all cut from the same cloth and stitched together by the same Creator." Since 2016, Hector has been a recognized Earth Care congregation in the PCUSA.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

The Rev. Ben Masters invited the presbytery to give thanks to God for the original stewards of this land.

Hectorites overwhelmingly recognize the precious gifts of this land, from the soil that nourishes orchards and vineyards to the peaceful waters of Seneca Lake. Last year, Thom White Wolf Fasset, our neighbor and a member of the Seneca Nation, helped us understand that appreciation for this corner of God's creation is nothing new; for countless generations, the Seneca people lived on and cared for this land. We are humbled by the sacred ground we share

*and we are willing to unlearn the destructive ways that General Sullivan's company imposed upon the indigenous inhabitants of these shores.
In this spirit of humility, openness, and gratitude, I invite you to give thanks to God for the Oh-n'own-dough-wahgah Seneca nation, age-old stewards of this land, and to pray that the Spirit reconcile this congregation to the Seneca, to all our neighbors, indigenous and settler, and to the land on which we are so privileged to live. All glory be to God! Amen!*

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

The Moderator appointed Elder Bob Sell (Horseheads) to prepare a *Resolution of Thanks*, to be presented at the end of the meeting.

STATED CLERK CONSENT AGENDA

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

That the presbytery:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the November 19, 2019 stated meeting, held at Christ the King Fellowship, Spencer, NY.
2. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
3. **Appoint** these persons to serve as tellers for this meeting (to count votes as required, to count the offering, and to serve as the New Business Committee):
 - a. Rev. Gail Heimberger (Sodus)
 - b. Rev. Aaron Frank (Horseheads, First)
 - c. Elder Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First)
 - d. Elder Ken Allen (Canandaigua, United)
4. **Approve** the transfer of the Rev. Bob Rochelle to the Presbytery of Northern New England, with thanksgiving for his ministry in this presbytery.
5. **Approve** the transfer of Rev. David Kilgore from the Presbytery of Geneva to the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, with thanksgiving for his ministry in this presbytery.
6. **Approve** the request of the session of Seneca Presbyterian Church, Stanley NY, for a waiver of the term limit requirement for Deacons Mary Colin and Janet Robson, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404.
7. **Approve** the request of the session of Memorial Presbyterian Church, Bellona, NY, for a waiver of the term limit requirement for Ruling Elder Roxann Carpenter and Trustee Jeff Johnson, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404 and G-4.0101.
8. **Approve** the request of the session of Lodi Presbyterian Church, Lodi NY, for a waiver of the term limit requirement for Ruling Elder Amanda McGonigal, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404.
9. **Approve** the redesignation of the \$6203 balance from Study Leave Funds remaining in the Presbytery of Geneva's Net Assets for Vital Congregations Initiative work.
10. **Approve** the election of the following nominees:
 - a. Elder Joanne Tunnison (Elmira, First) – Committee on Mission and Witness, Class of 2020;
 - b. CRE Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta) – Committee on Vitality, Class of 2022;
 - c. Mark DeCracker (Lyons) – Committee on Camp Whitman, Class of 2022.
11. **Approve** the following amendment to the Manual of Administrative Operations:
General Council (p. 9)
The General Council shall be composed of ruling and teaching elders as follows...
~~Representative of Presbyterian Women~~ The Moderator or designee of Presbyterian Women

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

1. The Rev. Aaron Frank was installed as the pastor of the First Presbyterian Church in Horseheads, NY, at 3:00pm on Sunday, January 12, 2020.
2. The Rev. John McDonald has applied for restoration to the exercise of ordered ministry. Per the PJC Order: "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.*" The motion to approve restoration - accompanied by the COM's recommendation - will be presented to the Presbytery for consideration and vote at the March 24, 2020 stated meeting.
3. A list of the Ordination Anniversaries we are celebrating in the Presbytery of Geneva in 2020 will be shared in March.
4. Minister ID cards should arrive by the March Presbytery meeting.
5. Statistical Reports are due February 1, 2020. Please remember: the session only needs to *receive* the report that is submitted by the clerk of session - not approve it.
6. Please consider attending the Congregational Leadership Day, Saturday, February 8, 2020, at Perinton Presbyterian Church in Fairport, NY. This event is coordinated by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. For more information and to register online, visit: <https://pbygenval.org/congregational-learning-day/>
7. At their stated meeting on 12/10/19 and 01/14/20, the General Council VOTED to:
 - Approve beginning our January Presbytery meeting with an acknowledgment of who had acted as the first stewards of the land where we are meeting; and, at the March meeting, introducing information about the Doctrine of Discovery, possibly with a motion to repudiate the Doctrine of Discovery and a plan to implement the GA recommendations re: land acknowledgement.
 - Approve TE Ben Masters and TE Cara Milne to serve as facilitators.
 - Approve RE Ellen Reynolds and TE Stanley Bhasker to serve as assistants.
 - Approve the grant application to be sent to the Presbyterian Mission Agency to help fund the VCI.
 - Approve a grant award of \$1200 to the Horseheads Food Pantry from the 2 Cents a Meal Fund.
 - Approve expanding the membership of the committee by adding one additional person to the class of 2020; and, recommending that the COR consider nominating RE Joanne Tunison to fill that class of 2020 slot.
 - Approve supporting and promoting the annual Sacred Sites Open House of the New York Landmarks Conservancy's Sacred Sites program by including a link to the Conservancy's website on the Presbytery website and promoting the event in a newsletter and/or Facebook post.
 - Approve purchase of an 8-issue subscription to The Presbyterian Outlook (\$12.95 per person) for each of our General Assembly Commissioners, Alternate Commissioners, YAADs, and Alternate YAADs.

BUSINESS RELATED TO CONGREGATIONS AND LEADERS

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

Elder Ken Allen (United, Canandaigua) and Rev. Ellen Donnan (Junius & United, Phelps) presented the report:

Items For Presbytery's Action

The Presbytery VOTED to:

- **Concur** with the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Cheryl Peeples and the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses, Trumansburg, NY, effective close of day February 9, 2020, with great thanks for her ministry in the Presbytery of Geneva.
 - Elder Kris Alling and Elder Carol MacLeod (First Ulysses, Trumansburg) shared their heartfelt reflections on Rev. Peeples' ministry in Trumansburg and in the Presbytery of Geneva.
 - The Moderator led the Presbytery in a responsive prayer, giving thanks for Rev. Peeples' ministry in our midst and blessing her for her next adventure in ministry.
 - Rev. Cheryl Peeples gave thanks to the Presbytery.

- **Approve** the transfer of membership of the Rev. Cheryl Peeples from the Presbytery of Geneva to the Presbytery of the Peaks, effective February 10, 2020.
- **Concur** with the dissolution of the pastoral relationship between the Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins and the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, Elmira, NY: “to dissolve the relationship on January 31, 2020, effective at 11:59pm, with deep and heartfelt thanks for her 27 ½ years of ministry at First Presbyterian and best wishes for her future.”
 - Elders Dottie Tholfsen, Joanne Tunison, and Rehana Staney (First, Elmira) shared their heartfelt reflections on Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins’ ministry in Elmira.
- **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins, effective February 1, 2020.
 - The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer.
 - The Rev. David Ashby shared his reflections, recounting the many ministries that the Rev. Dr. Crimmins has served on over the past 27 ½ years of service in the Presbytery of Geneva.
 - Rev. Ellen Donnan, Rev. Cindy Weaver, Rev. Tim Johnson each offered their thanks for the ways that Rev. Dr. Crimmins has worked with them over the past several years, sharing and growing in faith and ministry together.
 - Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins thanked the Presbytery.
 - The Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer for Rev. Dr. Crimmins and giving thanks for her years of faithful active ministry and blessing her new status as Honorably Retired.
- **Approve** the new charge to the Administrative Commission working with Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY [See Appendix A]. This motion is in response to the request of the session and congregation of Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY, to be dissolved, in the hope that the AC can work with the session to bring a mutually agreeable dissolution proposal to the May 26, 2020 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva.
 - After the vote, Rev. Ellen Donnan offered prayer for the Lake Street Presbyterian Church and the Administrative Commission.

Actions Taken On Behalf Of The Presbytery

Acting on behalf of presbytery, the Committee VOTED to:

- **Appoint** the Rev. Aaron Frank to serve as Moderator at United Church of Painted Post, effective January 9, 2020.
- **Appoint** the Rev. Jane Winters to serve as Moderator at the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, effective February 1, 2020.

Items For The Presbytery’s Information

- The Rev. John McDonald has applied for restoration to the exercise of ordered ministry. The COM’s recommendation to approve restoration will be presented to the Presbytery for vote at the March 24, 2020 stated meeting.

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- **Approve** the covenant between Rev. Walter Stuber and First Presbyterian Church of Wolcott, effective January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020, with waiver of requirement to pay SECA Offset. (A correction may come to COM in January.) Total compensation:
 - Cash Salary: \$9,094
 - Housing Allowance: \$18,500
 - SECA Offset: \$
 - Pension/Medical: \$13,025
 - Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile (\$.58) \$1,500
 - Business and Professional: \$1000

Study Leave: \$500
Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays

- **Approve** the covenant between Rev. Lucinda O'Leary and Rock Stream, effective January 2, 2020 - December 31, 2020, with a waiver of requirement to meet the minimum salary requirement and requirement to pay the SECA Offset. Total compensation:
 - Cash Salary and Housing: \$12,500 *up to 60% can be used for housing expenses
 - Pension/Medical: \$1,813
 - Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile
 - Study Leave: \$250
 - Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
 - Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays, plus one additional Sunday
- **Approve** the covenant between Rev. Anita Milne and First Presbyterian Church of Waterloo, effective January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020, with a waiver of requirement to meet the minimum salary requirement. Total compensation:
 - Total Compensation: \$25,000.42
 - Cash Salary: \$379.32 per month
 - Housing Allowance: \$1,517.29 per month
 - SECA Offset: \$145.09
 - Pension/Medical: \$0
 - Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile
 - Study Leave: \$41.67 per month
 - Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
 - Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays, plus 3 extra Sundays with pulpit supply provided by pastor
- **Approve** the covenant between Rev. Dr. Nancy Farrell and Huron Presbyterian Church, effective December 6, 2019 - December 31, 2020, with waiver of requirement to meet the minimum salary requirement and the requirement to pay SECA Offset. Total compensation:
 - Cash Salary: \$8,364
 - Housing Allowance: \$16,236
 - SECA Offset: \$0 (currently collecting)
 - Dental/Medical: \$1000 (vouchered)
 - Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile (\$.58) \$1,500
 - Business and Professional: \$2000 (vouchered)
 - Study Leave: \$1000 (vouchered)
 - Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
 - Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays
- **Approve** the covenant between Rev. Dr. Peter Marr and Addison Presbyterian Church, effective January 1, 2020 - December 31, 2020, with waiver of requirement to pay SECA Offset. Total compensation:
 - Cash Salary: \$8,113
 - Housing Allowance: \$4,694
 - Medical: \$4,739
 - Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile
 - Study Leave: \$250
 - Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
 - Vacation: 31 days, including 4 Sundays
- **Approve** adding Elder Catherine A Foerster (Penn Yan, First) and Elder Lynn Marie Dinehart (Prattsburgh, First) to the Pulpit Supply List, effective January 9, 2020.
- **Approve** the MIF for First Presbyterian Church of Elmira. Ellen Donnan will notify the church that they need to correct the area code listed for Rev. Aaron Frank (703 not 704) before posting the MIF.
- **Approve** the following persons to supply the pulpit at the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira if the church is without a pastor between the time that the Rev. Betsey Crimmins retires and an interim pastor is hired:
 - Elder Linda Werts (Canandaigua)
 - Elder Beth Newell (Geneva)
 - Elders Kirk and Denise Allen (Corning)
 - Rev. Bill Reynolds (First Care Head Chaplain)
 - Elder Tom Leslie (Emira, First)

INTERNAL BUSINESS

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS [BOARD OF TRUSTEES]

Rev. David Ashby (VM) - accompanied by the Treasurer, and Elder Tom Bailey (Christ the King, Spencer) - presented the report of the Committee on Operations:

Items For The Presbytery's Action

The presbytery VOTED to:

- **Approve** the 2020 Budget as presented (See Appendix C).

STATED CLERK REPORT

Rev. Amy Loving Austin (Seneca #9/Bellona) presented her report:

- The Clerk reminded the Presbytery to read the information provided in the Clerk's Consent Agenda.

PRESBYTERY LEADER REPORT

Elder Susan Orr presented her report:

- Susan Orr quizzed the Presbytery on their knowledge of the Mission Statement and Vision Statement. The Mission Statement describes what we strive to be right now; the Vision Statement describes what we strive to be in the future.
- Today's question: *Who* is the Presbytery? Answer: *we are*.
- We have 4 part-time staff who work to support the Presbytery. The staff is working hard to improve communications in the Presbytery, but they need commissioners to *share* information with their churches.
- Everyone is encouraged to "Like" the Presbytery of Geneva on Facebook.
- Presbyters are encouraged to share the Presbytery's newsletter and the Moderator's Letter with their congregations.

BUSINESS RELATED TO MISSION

VITAL CONGREGATIONS INITIATIVE

Rev. Ben Masters (Hector/Lodi) and Rev. Cara Milne (Watkins Glen), Vital Congregations Initiative Facilitators for the Presbytery of Geneva, presented the report:

- VCI is designed to teach and support church leaders of all kinds to bring back to their congregations ways to live more fully into faithful discipleship to Jesus Christ— *within* their communities, *in* real relationships, *trusting* God's Spirit is with us all the way.
- This isn't about worshiping the idea of programs or implementing a new one. This is about worshiping God and deepening our discipleship.
- So it won't look the same from church to church, even with the churches who are working together.
- This is not a guarantee of new or young members flocking to the church. This is instead a way for the church to go outside its walls into the community that it is a part of.
- You may not increase your membership at all from doing this, but you will get a chance to breathe new life into your current members.
- This isn't a way to keep things the way they have always been, with just a few tweaks. But instead this is a way to embrace the Spirit's change moving through the church.
- This is a program for churches who are ready and excited to make changes.
- This is a chance to be a part of the work that God is already doing in your community. This is a way to deepen your church's connection to the Spirit.

WORSHIP & THE LORD'S SUPPER

PRESBYTERY WORSHIP SERVICE

The presbytery engaged in a service of worship, led by: the Elder Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First); members of the Leader Care Committee; Elder Rick Ufford-Chase (Hudson River Presbytery), Moderator of the 216th General Assembly of the PCUSA and Co-Director of Stony Point Conference Center; Rev. Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship), Rev. Ben Masters (Hector/Lodi), and Rev. Cara Milne (Watkins Glenn).

- The presbytery honored the Teaching Elders and Ruling Elders who had passed away in 20219 (See Appendix B for the Necrology Report).
- Elder Rob Anderson (First, Penn Yan) conducted the installation of the 2020 Moderator, Rev. Glenn Kennedy (At Large), and 2020 Vice-Moderator, Elder Virginia Champlin (The, Geneva).
- Elder Rick Ufford-Chase (Hudson River Presbytery) offered the interactive study/sermon on Matthew 25.
- Rev. Sabrina Slater (Christ the King Fellowship, Spencer) and Elder Rick Ufford-Chase (Hudson River Presbytery) presided at the Lord's Table as the presbytery shared communion by intinction.
- Elder Rick Ufford-Chase led the commissioning and blessing of participants in the Mosaic of Peace: Rev. Deb Lind-Schmitz (The, Geneva), Elder Lisa Gage (The, Geneva), Elder Susan Orr (Genesee Valley), Elder Allison Gilday (Genesee Valley), Rev. Katherine Griffis (United, Hornell).

CLOSING MATTERS

(Resolution of Thanks)

Elder Bob Sell (Horseheads) joyfully presented the resolution of thanks:

Be it resolved, the Presbytery of Geneva offers thanks to the pastor and congregation of the Hector Presbyterian Church. We thank Rev. Ben Masters for his lively spirit and inspiration, and his call to serve this congregation. We thank the members of the congregation here today for showing supreme hospitality to all, welcoming us with open arms and umbrellas, and for the wide variety of treats prepared for us. The hospitality seen today is representative of the broader work of Christ in this community in the Finger Lakes, and we thank the Hector Presbyterian Church for showing God's love, both today, and every day, in our community.

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 newly installed Moderator, Rev. Glenn Kennedy.

The presbytery meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

Appendix A

**Administrative Commission for Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY
CHARGE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION**

Approved by the Presbytery of Geneva during the stated meeting of January 25, 2020. at Hector Presbyterian Church, Hector, NY

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

BACKGROUND

The session and congregation of Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira, NY has requested that the Presbytery of Geneva approve their dissolution, so that they may leave the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). This request changes the required scope of the previously appointed Administrative Commission, so it is necessary to clarify their role and scope as they work with the session and congregation as they take the steps necessary for properly dissolving the congregation.

This charge *replaces* the charge that was given to this commission on August 13, 2019.

MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

Ruling Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)
The Rev. Denise Stone (Big Flats, First)
The Rev. Jeffery Ugoretz (Corning, First)
Ruling Elder Rehana Stanley (Elmira, First)
Ruling Elder Julie Wellington (Elmira, Lake Street)

The quorum for meetings of the Administrative Commission will be three members.

**CHARGE FOR THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION
FOR LAKE STREET PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, ELMIRA, NY**

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

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

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

THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

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

THE RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION

I. ARRANGE FOR THE PASTORAL CARE OF CHURCH MEMBERS

1. Work with the session to identify where members wish to transfer their membership, and when the transfer is to be completed.
2. Provide pastoral support and care to the Pastor serving the Lake Street church during this time of transition.

3. Prior to dissolution, the clerk of session will effect transfers of membership, as requested by members.
4. Provide to the stated clerk the names and contact information of members who have not transferred their membership prior to dissolution of the church. The stated clerk will effect transfers requested after dissolution.

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

The session and the Administrative Commission will work together to discern a mutually beneficial plan for the management of all financial obligations and assets.

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

III. SECURE THE SESSION RECORDS

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

IV. DETERMINE WHAT SHALL BE DONE WITH THE PROPERTY

The session and the Administrative Commission will work together to discern a mutually beneficial plan for the future ownership of the property.

If the Presbytery is to take ownership of the property (as is the right of the Presbytery, per the *Book of Order* G-4.02), the following steps shall be taken:

1. Secure a Clear Title to the property.

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

V. SECURE THE BUILDING AND PROPERTY

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

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

7. Make provisions through the Operations Committee for a caretaker until the final disposition of the property, including mowing of lawn and maintenance of any sidewalks.
8. After the closing worship service remove any identifying signage and the cornerstone, if possible (checking for a time capsule).

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

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

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

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

VIII. DISSOLUTION OF THE COMMISSION

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

Appendix B

Necrology Report for the Presbytery of Geneva 2019

The Necrology Report contains the list of Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders who served in the Geneva Presbytery and passed away in 2019. The Teaching Elders are designated by the inclusion of "Rev." in the First Name column. These names were remembered in the 25 January 2020 worship service of the Presbytery hosted by Hector Presbyterian Church in Hector, NY.

First Name	Last Name	Church	City	State	Year Ordained
Richard	Adams	Hector Presbyterian Church	Hector	NY	2019
John	Arikian	First Presbyterian Church	Elmira	NY	N
Wayne	Bailey	United Church	Painted Post	NY	1970
Douglas (Doug)	Barnard	United Presbyterian Church	Hornell	NY	1997
Richard "Buzzy"	Bauer	First Presbyterian Church	Horseheads	NY	1981
Clay	Bishop	First Presbyterian Church of	Wolcott	NY	2005
Linda	Bliss	Huron Presbyterian Church	Wolcott	NY	2006

Lynda B.	Carpentier	North Presbyterian Church	Elmira	NY	2001
Donald	Chatfield	First Presbyterian Church	Bath	NY	1992
Martha	Cherwak	Presbyterian Church of	Lodi	NY	2005
Marian	Clawson	Trinity Federated Church	Naples	NY	2006
Rev. Gilmore K.	Creelman	Honorably Retired	Presbytery of Geneva	NY	1963
Luanna	Day	First Presbyterian Church	Seneca Falls	NY	N
Karla	Ferguson	First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses	Trumansburg	NY	
Wendell "Barney"	Glidden	First Presbyterian Church	Arkport	NY	1964
Georgina	Griswold	First Presbyterian Church	Hammondsport	NY	2008
Harold	Hager	United Church	Painted Post	NY	1977
John	Heaslip	First Presbyterian Church	Canisteo	NY	1975

Klaus	Herold	First Presbyterian Church	Watkins Glen	NY	1992
Alan	Hutchinson	First Presbyterian Church	Horseheads	NY	1993
Marion	Jenson	Memorial Presbyterian Church	Bellona	NY	1986
Larry	Johnson	Memorial Presbyterian Church	Bellona	NY	1985
Harold	Lebbert	First Presbyterian Church	Sodus	NY	1989
Dorothy	Maffin	United Presbyterian Church	Canandaigua	NY	2003
Leona	Manning	First Presbyterian Church	Lyons	NY	1977
Donna	Meyer	Seneca Presbyterian Church	Stanley	NY	2006
Rita	Oestreich	First Presbyterian Church	Bath	NY	1998
Stanley	Panosian	First Presbyterian Church	Elmira	NY	N
Ralph	Poorman	First Presbyterian Church	Waterloo	NY	2001

James	Preston	Presbyterian Church	Hector	NY	1989
Joan	Putnam	First Presbyterian Church	Prattsburgh	NY	
Elaine	Randolph	Fairville Presbyterian Church	Fairville	NY	
Lancing "Lance"	Schroeder	First Presbyterian Church	Arkport	NY	2000
Irene	Schu	United Presbyterian Church	Hornell	NY	1983
Thomas	Scott	First Presbyterian Church	Ithaca	NY	1976
Joe	Simpson	First Presbyterian Church	Penn Yan	NY	
Rev. Robert	Smith	First Presbyterian Church	Elmira	NY	
Jill	Snyder	United Presbyterian Church	Canandaigua	NY	2005
Blanche	Spano	First Presbyterian Church	Waterloo	NY	1986
Anna	Termin	First Presbyterian Church	Canisteo	NY	2000

Margaret	Thomas	First Presbyterian Church	Ithaca	NY	1988
Eugene Abraham	Vis	First Presbyterian Church	Pulteney	NY	1997
Lincoln	Wager	First Presbyterian Church	Watkins Glen	NY	1987
Gerald (Gerry)	Walker	United Presbyterian Church	Hornell	NY	1972
Francis	Warren	First Presbyterian Church	Bath	NY	1970
Alice	Willsey	United Presbyterian Church	Hornell	NY	1980

Appendix C