

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 Stated Meeting on Tuesday, September 27, 2022, held electronically via Zoom.us.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

12:45 pm Registration and Fellowship Time (through 1:00 pm)

CALL TO ORDER

TE Deb Grohman (Ontario Center, First), Moderator, called the meeting to order at 1:00 pm, a quorum being present.

The Moderator offered the opening prayer.

ROLL

CONGREGATIONS: MINISTERS & COMMISSIONERS (CM = Corresponding Member; CP = Commissioned Pastor)

CONGREGATION	MINISTER(S)	COMMISSIONER	CONGREGATION	MINISTER(S)	COMMISSIONER
ADDISON	A - Peter Marr (CM)		MARION, UNITED	A - Denise Logan (CM)	Frank Halstead
ANDOVER, FIRST	A - C. Mattison		MORELAND	A - Paul Yoder (CRE)	
ARKPORT, FIRST	Bruce Incze		NAPLES, TRINITY FEDERATED	A - Matthew Finch (CM)	A - Jessie Olney
ATLANTA	-----		NEWARK, PARK	Susan Frost	Anne Rogers
BATH, FIRST	John Woodring (CM)	A - Dean Chatfield	OAKS CORNERS	A - Karl Warrington	
BELLONA, MEMORIAL	Amy Loving Austin	EX - Jane Hansen	ONTARIO CENTER, FIRST	Deborah Grohman	
BIG FLATS, FIRST	EX - Denise Stone	A - Robin Fitzgerald	OVID, FEDERATED	Rob Mellgard	Judy Mellgard
BURDETT	Richard Evans (CRE)	EX - Martha Evans	PAINTED POST, UNITED	David Preisendanz	
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	EX - Wade Allen (CM)	Linda Werts	PALMYRA, WESTERN	-----	Philip Opdycke
CANISTEO, FIRST	Michelle Serra (G)		PENN YAN, FIRST	EX - Paul Malles	Rob Anderson
COHOCTON, FIRST	-----	EX- Linda Hodges	PHELPS, UNITED	-----	Peg Carlson
CORNING, FIRST	Jeffrey Ugoretz	EX - Kay Rogus	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	-----	EX - Lynn Dinehart
EAST PALMYRA, FIRST	-----		PULTENEY, FIRST	Don Peek (CRE)	Mary Jane Peek
ELMIRA, FIRST	Bill Reynolds (CM)	Barbara Fitzsimmons	RED CREEK		
ELMIRA, NORTH	Evan Hansen	Annie LeFevre	ROCK STREAM	A - Lucinda O'Leary (CM)	
GENEVA, THE PC	EX - Colin Pritchard	Chris Gerling	SENECA #9	Amy Loving Austin	Pam Ellis
HAMMONDSPORT,	-----		SENECA FALLS,	Leah Ntuala	

FIRST			FIRST		
HECTOR	A - Daniel Russell	EX - Charles Knight	SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	
HORNELL, UNITED	Katherine Griffis	A - Kerm Bossard	SODUS, FIRST	Gail Heimberger	A - Keith Blackall
HORSEHEADS, FIRST	Aaron Frank		SPENCER, CHRIST THE KING FELLOWSHIP	Sabrina Slater	Gail Maureen
HOWARD, UNION	-----		TRUMANSBURG, FIRST ULYSSES	Susan Joseph Rack	Pamela Postle
HURON		Linda Hayes	WATERLOO, FIRST	Anita Milne	EX - George Bassett
ITHACA, FIRST	Cynthia Weaver EX - Kirianne Weaver	Brad McFall	WATKINS GLEN, FIRST	Cara Milne	Patti Smith
JASPER, UNITED	A - Brain Dieffenbacher (CM)		WESTON	-----	Barry Winters
JUNIUS	EX - Ellen Donnan	EX - Kristi Ward	WOLCOTT, FIRST	Walter Stuber (CM)	Dolores Gingerich
LYONS, FIRST	-----	Joanne Reinhardt			

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT-LARGE / HONORABLY RETIRED MINISTERS

Present: Marjorie Ackerman (VM) Carol Wilson (HR) Glenn Kennedy (AL)
David Ashby (AL) Jane Winters (HR) James Hicks (HR)

Excused: Betsey Crimmins (HR) Adrian Tierson (VM) James Kerr (HR) John Milne (HR)
David Barnard (HR) Janice Fitzgerald (VM) Susan Husted (HR) Jim Gerling (HR)
Philip Courtney (HR) Jeff Kellam (HR) Cynthia Huling Hummel (HR)

ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS (appointed by Presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Virginia Champlin (Geneva) COUNCIL CHAIR	Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) VICE MODERATOR	EX - Tom Bailey (Spencer) TREASURER	
Pricilla Andrews (Rock Stream)	Carleen Frost (Sodus, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Bob Sell (Horseheads, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	John Gingerich (Wolcott, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)
A - James Mosher (Elmira, North) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	A - Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta) CRE (Pulpit Supply)		
A - Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western) COUNCIL (Operations)	Beth Newell (Geneva) COUNCIL (COM)	Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First) COUNCIL (RE At-Large)	

PRESBYTERY STAFF (granted voice)

Present: Elena Delhagen (Albany Presbytery) Lea Kone (Genesee Valley Presbytery)

REGISTERED GUESTS (Current Meeting; granted voice)

Michelle Serra (Canisteo, First) Falon Denison (Elmira, First) Joanne Tunison (Elmira, First)
Cathy Foerster (Penn Yan, First) Bob Rochelle (Presbytery of Northern New England)

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2021	Jan 22	Mar 29	Apr 26	May 24	Aug 16	Sept 27	
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	22	27	22	19	23	23	
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	32	32	31	35	24	28	
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+10	+5	+9	+16	+1	+5	
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	10	4	6	5	9	2	

Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders****	32	29	34	27	33	31	
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors****	19	17	24	21	23	17	
Total Registered Visitors and Staff	8	9	7	3	6	7	
Total Registered Attendance*****	62	70	60	60	53	64	

* 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

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The presbytery VOTED to approve the docket for the meeting:

12:45 PM	Registration and fellowship time (through 1:00 PM)
1:00 PM	Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer
1:05 PM	Introductory Business
	Call for New Business & Approval of the Docket
	Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land
1:10 AM	Consent Agenda
1:15 PM	Worship and the Lord's Supper [TE Paul Malles (Penn Yan, First), presiding]
2:00 PM	Committee on Ministry
	Examination of TE Robert S. Rochelle, Jr. (HR)
	Approval of 2023 Minimum Salary Requirements and COLA
2:25 PM	Committee on Operations [TE David Ashby (VM)]
2:35 PM	Treasurer's Report [RE Tom Bailey (Spencer, Christ the King)]
2:40 PM	Committee on Vitality [TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First)]
2:45 PM	Matthew 25: Congregational Vitality [RE Joanne Tunnison (Elmira, First)]
2:55 PM	Committee on Representation
3:10 PM	Commissioning of Synod Assembly Commissioners
3:15 PM	Good News from Congregations
	* To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
3:25 PM	Resolution of Thanks [TE Bruce Incze (Arkport, First)]
3:30 PM	Benediction and Adjournment

The Presbytery VOTED to **grant voice** to all guests participating in reports during this meeting.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

RE Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First), offered acknowledgement of the first stewards of the land where we live and serve:

We would like to acknowledge the land on which we gather today is the traditional, unceded territory of the Seneca Nation. We recognize and respect the Seneca Indians who were the largest of the original six nations of the Iroquois Confederacy. The Seneca had a prosperous society and were represented by eight Chiefs.

The connection of indigenous people to the land continues to this day. We have a responsibility to honor these connections by affirming Indigenous sovereignty, history and experiences. We are committed to work together to dismantle structural racism. We are strongly committed to racial justice and an end to all forms of prejudice. We strive to understand our place in the past, present, and future of this Indigenous land.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the May 24, 2022 stated meeting, held via Zoom.us.
2. **Approve** the minutes of the August 16, 2022 called meeting, held via Zoom.us.
3. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
4. **Receive** the August Operating Statement, Balance Statement, and Treasurer's report.
5. **Receive** the Audit Summary for 2021 prepared by Heveron & Company CPAs.

6. **Elect** RE Phoebe Baker (Penn Yan, First) to serve as a Commissioner to the Synod of the Northeast.
7. **Approve** the request of the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Cohocton, NY, for a waiver of the term limit requirement for Ruling Elder Victoria Bolton, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404.
8. **Approve** the following amendments to the *Manual of Administrative Operations* to task the Committee on Ministry with acting on behalf of the Presbytery to respond to requests of sessions to waive term limit requirements for church officers:

VII. Committees
Committee on Ministry
Responsibilities
Ordered Ministry

- Act on behalf of the Presbytery to respond to requests of sessions to waive term limit requirements for church officers in accordance with the provisions of the Book of Order.

9. **Approve** the following amendments to the *Manual of Administrative Operations* to update the process of commissioning and recommissioning CREs so that CREs are commissioned/recommissioned for 3-year terms and their commission be reviewed annually by the COM:

III. MEMBERSHIP AND MEETINGS
Worship

Every meeting shall be opened and closed with prayer. Worship services, at all presbytery meetings, shall be arranged by the presbytery Vice-Moderator in consultation with the Moderator, Stated Clerk, Presbytery Leader, and the host location. Ordinarily, the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper shall be celebrated at all stated meetings. At the January meeting, there shall be a memorial service for teaching elders and ruling elders who have died during the previous year. ~~At the March meeting, there shall be a commissioning service for all qualified CREs and a recognition of all temporary pastoral relationships.~~

VII. Committees
Committee on Ministry
Responsibilities
Ordered Ministry

- Act on behalf of the Presbytery to conduct the commissioning and/or recommissioning of CREs (typically to 3-year terms), and review all commissions annually.

10. **Approve** the following amendment to the *Manual of Administrative Operations* to require that members of the Operations Committee as the Board of Trustees annually review and sign the Presbytery's Conflict of Interest Policy.

VII. COMMITTEES
Committee on Operations
Responsibilities
Legal

- As Trustees, each member of the Committee on Operations must annually sign the Conflict of Interest Policy

11. **Approve** the following amendment to the *Presbytery's Personnel Policies and Procedure* to require that Employees shall annually review and sign off on the following policies: Workplace Harassment Policy, Sexual Misconduct Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and Conflict of Interest Policy.

II. POLICIES

J. Employees shall annually review and sign off on the following policies: Workplace Harassment Policy, Sexual Misconduct Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and Conflict of Interest Policy.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK

1. The installation of the Rev. Dr. Susan Joseph Rack was held on September 11, 2022, at the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses, Trumansburg, NY.
2. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars: <https://www.synodne.org/webinars>

WORSHIP AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Presbytery of Geneva engaged in a service of worship, led by TE Paul Malles (Penn Yan, First). The pre-recorded worship included a sermon given by the Rev. Paul Malles, as well as the celebration (online) of the Lord's Supper.

THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

RE Beth Newell (Geneva), co-chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the report.

Items For Presbytery's Action

The Presbytery examined TE Bob Rochelle (Presbytery of Northern New England) for membership in the Presbytery of Geneva. Following examination, the Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to:

- **sustain** the examination
- **approve** the transfer of membership of the Rev. Robert Rochelle and **authorize** the Stated Clerk to complete the required notifications effective Sept. 27, 2022.

The Committee on Ministry presented the proposed changes to the Minimum Salary Requirements.

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to:

- **amend** the proposed amendment to the third sentence at the bottom of the page of the Minimum Salary Requirements to strike the words "and other employees".
- **approve** (as amended) editing the third sentence at the bottom of the page of the Minimum Salary Requirements to say "Employers shall offer a combination of benefits, including medical benefits, to any ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are not in an installed relationship with a church... see pensions.org for full details or contact COM."
- **Approve** a 2.5% COLA increase to the Minimum Salary Requirements, and **approve** challenging congregations to offer a 4% COLA salary increase.
- **Approve** setting the minimum Study Leave Allowance to \$1,000 for all pastors.

Actions Taken On Behalf Of The Presbytery

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- **Approve** the transitional pastor covenant between the Presbyterian Church of Hector and the Rev. Dr. Daniel Russell, effective September 11, 2022 to September 10, 2023, at the following terms:

Salary:	\$25,220
Housing:	\$13,446
SECA offset:	\$ 2,958
Board of Pensions:	\$14,307
Travel:	all church mileage at current IRS rate for business
Study Leave:	\$ 750
Pastor's 403b:	\$ 1,000
Study Leave:	2 Weeks (including 2 Sundays)
Vacation:	31 Days (including 4 Sundays)
- **Appoint** TE Katherine Griffis to serve as the Moderator of Howard, Union, so that Presbyterian-specific business can be properly conducted when needed.
- **Approve** the Transitional Pastor covenant agreement between the Rev. John Woodring (Presbytery of Western New York) and the First Presbyterian Church of Bath, NY, effective September 1, 2022 through September 1, 2023, at the following terms:

Salary	\$23,587
Housing	\$29,000
SECA Offset	\$ 4,023
Board of Pensions	\$19,902
Travel	all church mileage at current IRS rate for business
Study Leave	\$ 1,020
Employee 403b Matching	\$ 1,200
Study Leave	2 Weeks (including 2 Sundays)
Vacation	31 Days (including 4 Sundays)
- **Approve** the covenant between the Rev. Jamie Tyrrell (Genesee Valley Presbytery) the Session of the United Church of Phelps to serve as ¾-time Temporary Pastor, effective September 19, 2022 thru March 19, 2023 (6 months), and appoint Rev. Tyrrell as Moderator at Phelps. Total compensation:

Cash salary:	\$ 7,333
Housing:	\$ 12,000
SECA:	\$ 1,479
Pension/Medical	\$ 7,153.50
Travel Allowance:	all church mileage at current IRS business rate
Study Leave Allowance:	\$ 375
Study Leave Time:	7 days, including 1 Sunday
Vacation:	15.5 days, including 2 Sundays
- **Approve** the Transitional Pastor Covenant between the Park Presbyterian Church of Newark, NY, and the Rev. Susan Frost, effective February 5, 2022 to November 21, 2022, at the following terms:

Salary:	\$33,627
Housing:	\$17,928

SECA offset:	\$ 0
Board of Pensions:	\$ 0
Travel:	all church mileage at current IRS rate for business
Study Leave:	\$ 1,000
Study Leave:	2 Weeks (including 2 Sundays)
Vacation:	31 Days (including 4 Sundays)

- **Approve** removing TE Joanne Bartel from the Pulpit Supply list at her request.

Items For The Presbytery's Information

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- **Approve** updating the Pulpit Supply list to list "current IRS rate for business" as the required mileage reimbursement rate
- **Approve** the updated Pulpit Supply Annual Report form.
- **Authorize** the reimbursement of the Rev. Dr. Dan Russell for \$722.50 (half of the cost of Week 2 Interim Pastor Training).
- **Approve** the request of the Session of the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, NY, to continue in the process of designating the Rev. Dr. Betsey Crimmins as Pastor Emerita of the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, NY, following the Presbytery's Pastor Emerita policy

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS

TE David Ashby (AL), chair of the Committee on Operations, presented the report.

Items for the Presbytery's Information

- Financial reports have been provided by the Treasurer. Let us know if you have any questions!
- We wish to thank congregations for their continued generosity in mission giving and in staying current with per capita. Many amazing things are happening because of the faithfulness sharing of your resources.

COMMITTEE ON VITALITY

TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First), chair of the Committee on Vitality, presented the report.

- The Committee on Vitality encourages every congregation to celebrate the opportunity to participate in one of the Minutes Reading Gatherings: Saturday, Oct 15 in Bath, from 9:30am-11:30am; and Saturday, Oct 22 in Geneva, from 9:30am-11:30am.
- All Sessions are encouraged to complete the Questionnaires the Committee has provided.

MATTHEW 25: BUILDING CONGREGATIONAL VITALITY

RE Joanne Tunnison (Elmira, First), shared her reflections on how the partnership between the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira and the Iglesia Presbiteriana en Lares, Puerto Rico has helped increase vitality in both congregations. Rooted in a desire to respond to God's call to love one another and serve those in need, the congregations and communities in Lares, Puerto Rico – as well as in Elmira, NY – are transforming and growing in amazing ways. What a blessing!

- For more information on how your congregation can join in this ministry, contact RE Joanne Tunnison (Elmira, First).
- For more information on the Matthew 25 Initiative and its commitment to Building Congregational Vitality, please visit: <https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/vitality/>

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

RE Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First), member of the Committee on Representation, presented the report.

- "Ask not what your Presbytery can do for you; ask what you can do for your Presbytery."
- Looking to serve and want to know more? Of course you do! Please feel free to even share your name & contact info (or someone else's name & contact info) with the Committee on Representation.

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to:

- **Elect** TE Cara Milne (Watkins Glen, First) to serve as a Commissioner to the Synod of the Northeast.

COMMISSIONING OF SYNOD ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

The Moderator led the Presbytery of Geneva in the Service of Commissioning for TE Cara Milne (Watkins Glen, First), TE Aaron Frank (Horseheads, First), and RE Phoebe Baker (Penn Yan, First) to serve as Commissioners to the Synod of the Northeast and for TE Aaron Frank to serve on the Synod's Mission and Ministries Commission.

GOOD NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONS

Members of the Presbytery shared good news and announcements from their congregations and ministries.

- Camp Whitman's Fall Volunteer Day is Saturday, October 15. We would love to see any or all of you there for a day at camp including lunch. More info and RSVP here:
<https://www.campwhitman.org/event-calendar/spring-volunteer-day-ngs97-hk3at>

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

TE Bruce Incze (Arkport, First) offered the Resolution of Thanks.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

The Presbytery VOTED to **adjourn** the meeting with prayer and the benediction.

The Moderator offered prayer, offered the benediction, and pronounced the meeting to be adjourned at 3:28 pm.

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

Additional Written Reports Provided to the Presbytery on May 24, 2022

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY

September 27, 2022 – Zoom.us

[From the meetings of 06/14/22 and 09/13/22]

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION: None

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(Committee on Operations)

Receive and, in accordance with our Financial Policies and Procedures III.G, **recommend the Presbytery to receive** the Audit Summary for 2021 prepared by Heveron & Company CPAs.

Recommend the Presbytery approve the Committee on Operations' proposed amendment to the Manual of Administrative Operations that members of the Operations Committee as the Board of Trustees annually review and sign the Presbytery's Conflict of Interest Policy.

Recommend the Presbytery approve the Committee on Operations' proposed amendment to the Presbytery's Personnel Policies and Procedure that Employees shall annually review and sign off on the following policies: Workplace Harassment Policy, Sexual Misconduct Policy, Whistleblower Policy, and Conflict of Interest Policy.

(Presbytery Meetings)

Call a Presbytery Meeting to be held on Tuesday, August 16, 2022, at 1:00pm via Zoom.

Approve conducting all Presbytery business meetings through January 2023 via Zoom and holding a social event in person this Fall.

(Committee on Vitality)

Direct the Vitality Committee to provide training opportunities for session clerks and church treasurers; the Vitality Committee (with assistance of the Stated Clerk) will provide updated language for the Presbytery's Manual of Operations to reflect this responsibility.

Report of the Treasurer

September 27, 2022

Through the month of August, church giving for per capita has been below what we experienced in 2021. We have also had higher than expected expenses. Churches are encouraged to review their giving for 2022 and seek to meet their commitment by December.

The annual audit was completed and accepted by the Operations Committee (acting as the Board of Trustees) and by the General Council. If any church would like a copy please contact me and I will be glad to email a copy to you.

RE C. Thomas Bailey, Treasurer

Letter from the Presbytery Leader – September

Greetings to the Presbytery of Geneva!

These first few months have been absolutely amazing. Visiting congregations for Sunday morning worship has allowed me to meet some incredibly faithful members and dedicated volunteers in each of our churches. Working with sessions and committee members has shown wonderful groups of hardworking people at all levels. The open conversations and willingness to explore new possibilities have truly been a blessing.

The committees have shown a strong commitment to the vision and mission of this presbytery, and to the spiritual nurture of committee members through the sharing of joys and concerns and heartfelt devotions and prayers. Beyond our borders, efforts continue to seek commonalities with neighboring presbyteries as we explore ways to better use the resources each has been given. By joining together, we are better able to address needs and build relationships with one another.

As we enter the beautiful autumn season with the explosion of colors in the trees, I look forward to meeting more of you at worship and learning about the ministry efforts of your congregations. May God's blessings pour out among us as we continue our journey together.

With joy and peace,

Rev. Marji Ackerman, Presbytery Leader