

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, November 29, 2022, held electronically via Zoom.us.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

4:45 pm Registration and Fellowship Time (through 5:00 pm)

CALL TO ORDER

TE Deb Grohman (Ontario Center, First), Moderator, called the meeting to order at 5:01 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)	A - Frank Halstead
ANDOVER, FIRST	A - C. Mattison		MORELAND	A - Paul Yoder (CRE)	
ARKPORT, FIRST	EX - 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	Denise Stone	Robin Fitzgerald	OVID, FEDERATED	Rob Mellgard	Judy Mellgard
BURDETT	Richard Evans (CRE)	EX - Martha Evans	PAINTED POST, UNITED	David Preisendanz	
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	A - Wade Allen (CM)	Linda Werts	PALMYRA, WESTERN	-----	Philip Opdycke
CANISTEO, FIRST	EX - Michelle Serra (G)		PENN YAN, FIRST	Paul Malles	Rob Anderson
COHOCTON, FIRST	-----	EX- Linda Hodges	PHELPS, UNITED	EX - James Tyrrell (CM)	Peg Carlson
CORNING, FIRST	EX - Jeffrey Ugoretz	Kay Rogus	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	-----	A - 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	Colin Pritchard	Chris Gerling	SENECA #9	Amy Loving Austin	EX - Pam Ells
HAMMONDSPORT, FIRST	-----		SENECA FALLS, FIRST	Leah Ntuala	
HECTOR	Daniel Russell	Charles Knight	SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	
HORNELL, UNITED	Katherine Griffis	Lisa Sanford	SODUS, FIRST	Gail Heimberger	A - Keith Blackall
HORSEHEADS, FIRST	Aaron Frank	Lori Ann Congdon	SPENCER, CHRIST THE KING FELLOWSHIP	Sabrina Slater	A - Gail Maureen
HOWARD, UNION	-----		TRUMANSBURG, FIRST ULYSSES	Susan Joseph Rack	A - Pamela Postle
HURON		Linda Hayes	WATERLOO, FIRST	Anita Milne	George Bassett
ITHACA, FIRST	Cynthia Weaver Kirianne Weaver	A - Brad McFall	WATKINS GLEN, FIRST	A - Cara Milne	Ken Wilson
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	-----	EX - Joanne Reinhardt			

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

Present: Marjorie Ackerman (VM) Carol Wilson (HR) John Milne (HR)
David Ashby (AL) Jane Winters (HR) Cynthia Huling Hummel (HR)
James Kerr (HR) Janice Fitzgerald (VM)
Paul Rack (HR) Lynn Rubier-Capron (AL)

Excused: Betsey Crimmins (HR) Adrian Tierson (VM) Glenn Kennedy (AL) Jeff Kellam (HR)
David Barnard (HR) Susan Husted (HR) Jim Gerling (HR)
Philip Courtney (HR)

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

Virginia Champlin (Geneva) COUNCIL CHAIR	Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) VICE MODERATOR	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)	Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta) CRE (Pulpit Supply)		
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)

Cathy Foerster (Penn Yan, First) Alan Barton (Weston) Howard Watts (Weston)
Alida Schamel (Elmira, First) Dottie Holfson (Elmira, First) Julie Merrell Mattera (Wolcot)
Carol Merrell (Wolcot) Kathleen Menges (Elmira, First) Laurie Johnson (Wolcot)
Mark Ivanick (Elmira, First) Sharron Nutting (Wolcot) Mike Johnson (Wolcot)
John Widboom (Presbytery of Genesee Valley)

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2021	Jan 22	Mar 29	Apr 26	May 24	Aug 16	Sept 27	Nov 29
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	22	27	22	19	23	23	29
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	32	32	31	35	24	28	34
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+10	+5	+9	+16	+1	+5	+5
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	10	4	6	5	9	2	3
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders****	32	29	34	27	33	31	31
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors****	19	17	24	21	23	17	20
Total Registered Visitors and Staff	8	9	7	3	6	7	15
Total Registered Attendance*****	62	70	60	60	53	64	81

* 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:

4:45 PM	Registration and fellowship time (through 5:00 PM)
5:00 PM	Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer
5:05 PM	Introductory Business
	Call for New Business & Approval of the Docket
	Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land
5:10 AM	Consent Agenda
5:15 PM	Worship and the Lord's Supper
5:45 PM	Committee on Ministry
	Examination of the Rev. Paul Rack for membership
	Examination of the Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron for membership and approval of call
	Recognition of now-retired CRE Carol Merrell
6:20 PM	Committee on Vitality [TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First)]
6:25 PM	Committee on Operations [TE David Ashby (VM)]
6:30 PM	Matthew 25 Spotlight: Weston Presbyterian Church
6:40 PM	Synod of the Northeast Commissioner Report
6:50 PM	225th General Assembly Report
7:00 PM	Committee on Representation
7:05 PM	Good News from Congregations
	* To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
7:15 PM	Installation of 2022 Moderator
7:25 PM	Resolution of Thanks [TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First)]
7:30 PM	Benediction and Adjournment

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

RE Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First), offered acknowledgement of the first stewards of the land where we live and serve.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the September 27, 2022 stated meeting, held via Zoom.us.
2. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
3. **Receive** the October Operating Statement, Balance Statement and Treasurer's report.

4. **Receive** the 2023 Budget for the Presbytery's first reading, to be presented to the Presbytery for approval in January 2023.
5. **Approve** the following addition to the Presbytery's Personnel Policies and Practices, as endorsed by the General Council:
 - F. PROGRESSIVE DISCIPLINARY ACTION
 3. Administrative Leave. In the event that employee disciplinary action warrants further investigation, administrative leave may be instituted for the affected person(s). Temporary administrative leave may be initiated for up to seventy-two hours by the Presbytery Leader, or, for Camp Whitman, the Executive Director, and extended further by the Committee on Operations. Administrative leave may be paid (generally Exempt employees) or unpaid (generally Nonexempt employees).
6. **Approve** the following addition (in red) to the Presbytery's Manual of Administrative Operations, as endorsed by the General Council:
 - V. The General Council
 - Responsibilities: Coordination
 - Recommend nominees for membership on the Committee on Representation to the presbytery for approval. *The process of identifying potential nominees will be led by the at-large members of the General Council.*
7. **Approve** the following change to the Presbytery's Manual of Administrative Operations:
 - VII. Committees: Committee on Ministry
 - Responsibilities: Ordered Ministry
 - Appoint moderators of session ~~for congregations~~ and/or meetings of congregations ~~without a called pastor~~ on behalf of the Presbytery.
8. **Approve** the following addition to the Presbytery's Manual of Administrative Operations:
 - VII. Committees: Committee on Ministry
 - Responsibilities: Ordered Ministry
 - On behalf of the Presbytery, train and authorize ruling elders to administer or preside at the Lord's Supper [*during worship in the congregation where the ruling elder is a member*] in the absence of pastors.
9. **Authorize** the sale of the Church Building and Parish Hall at 1638 Ridge Rd., Ontario, NY 14519, at the request of the Session and Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Ontario Center and with the concurrence of the Committee on Operations (acting in its role as the Board of Trustees of the Presbytery of Geneva).

Notes:

 - The congregational corporation will remain and continue to be First Presbyterian Church of Ontario Center.
 - Congregational governance will continue as outlined in the Book of Order.
 - The congregation will seek new mission activities and opportunities for congregational life.
 - The congregation will identify alternative worship space should it be needed.
 - Plans, which will be approved by the congregation, will be developed regarding the investment of funds remaining following the completion of the sale, including payment of customary and necessary closing and attorney's costs.
10. **Approve** the election of the following to serve on the Committee on Representation:
 - a. Class of 2025: TE Jim Gerling (HR)
 - b. Class of 2025: RE Virginia Champlin (Geneva)
 - c. Class of 2024: TE Cara Milne (Watkins Glen, First)
11. **Approve** the election of the following to serve as Presbytery Officers in 2023:
 - a. Moderator: RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)
 - b. General Council Chair: TE Deb Grohman (Ontario Center, First)
 - c. Treasurer: RE Tom Bailey (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship)
12. **Approve** the election of the following to serve on Presbytery Committees:
 - a. Permanent Judicial Commission
 - Class of 2028: TE Jeffery Ugoretz (Corning, First)
 - Class of 2028: TE Denise Stone (Big Flats, First)
 - b. Committee on Ministry
 - Class of 2024: TE John Milne (HR)
 - Class of 2025: TE Susan Frost (Newark, Park)

- c. Committee on Leader Care
 - Class of 2023: RE Virginia Champlin (Geneva)
 - Class of 2025: RE Judy Mellgard (Ovid, Federated)
 - Class of 2025: RE Priscilla Andrews (Rock Stream)
 - d. Committee on Camp Whitman
 - Class of 2025: TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva)
 - Class of 2025: RE Cimberly McFarlane (Palmyra, Western)
 - e. Committee on Vitality
 - Class of 2025: RE Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta)
 - Class of 2025: TE Daniel Russell (Hector)
 - f. Committee on Mission and Witness
 - Class of 2023: RE Marion Nicastro (Weston)
 - Class of 2025: RE Ellen Reynolds (Geneva)
 - g. Committee on Operations
 - Class of 2024: TE Rob Mellgard (Ovid, Federated)
 - Class of 2025: RE Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western)
 - Class of 2025: TE Betsey Crimmins (HR)
 - Class of 2025: RE Paul Salisbury (Newark, Park)
13. **Approve** the following imbalance correction for 2023:
- Current Imbalance Report
- | | |
|---|---------------------------|
| Minister members of presbytery (as of 11/18/22) | 77 |
| Honorably Retired Minister members (traditionally excused) | 38 |
| Average ministers in attendance in 2022 (stated meetings) | 23 (last year: 29) |
| | |
| Elder Commissioners from congregations (as of 11/18/22) | 51 |
| Add'l Elder Commissioners from large congregations (over 500) | 0 |
| Average elder commissioners in attendance in 2022 (stated meetings) | 32 (last year: 39) |
| | |
| <i>Total # of congregations (as of 11/18/22)</i> | <i>51</i> |
| <i>Average # of churches not represented by elder comm. in 2022</i> | <i>30 (last year: 25)</i> |
| <i>Average # of churches not represented by elder comm. or pastor</i> | <i>19 (last year: 15)</i> |
- Imbalance To Be Corrected in 2022:
- Invite** the following persons to serve as “additional elder commissioners” for calendar year 2023:
- Presbytery Officers (2):
- Tom Bailey (Spencer, Christ the King) — Treasurer
 - Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) — Presbytery Moderator
- CREs in current service to church or presbytery (9):
- Priscilla Andrews (Rock Stream)
 - Richard Evans (Burdett)
 - Carleen Frost (Sodus, First)
 - Don Peek (Pulteney, First)
 - Connie Franks (Marion, United)
 - Bob Sell (Horseheads, First)
 - John Gingerich (Wolcott, First)
 - Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta)
 - Paul Yoder (Horseheads, First)
- Committee/Council Leadership (4):
- Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western) — Committee on Operations
 - Beth Newell (Geneva) — Committee on Ministry
 - Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First) — At-Large RE on Council

Linda Werts (Canandagua, United) — Committee on Mission and Witness
TOTAL INVITATIONS = 15

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK

1. Information about the Annual Statistical Reports that congregations are required to file with the Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) will be sent via email to session clerks and moderators very soon.
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 CRE Don Peek (Pulteney, First). The pre-recorded worship included a sermon given by CRE Don Peek, 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 Paul Rack (Presbytery of Long Island) 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. Paul Rack and **authorize** the Stated Clerk to complete the required notifications effective November 29, 2022.

The Presbytery examined TE Susan Lynn Rubier-Capron (Northeast New Jersey Presbytery) 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. Susan Lynn Rubier-Capron and **authorize** the Stated Clerk to complete the required notifications effective November 29, 2022.
- **approve** the call of First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, NY, to the Rev. Susan Lynn Rubier-Capron to be their installed pastor, and **appoint** the Rev. Susan Lynn Rubier-Capron to be their Moderator, effective January 1, 2023 at the following terms of call:

Salary:	\$36,000
Housing	\$24,000
SECA offset	\$ 4,590
Board of Pensions	\$22,200 [Note: This amount will be adjusted to reflect the change in BOP dues; this was originally calculated prior to the announcement of the 2023 increase]

- **approve** the following Administrative Commission to Install the Rev. Susan Lynn Rubier-Capron to the position of Pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, NY, on February 12, 2023, (time TBA) at the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira, NY:
 - RE Jeff Richards, Elmira North, Moderator
 - RE Penny Haynes, Junius
 - RE Mark Ivanick, Elmira First
 - TE Janice Fitzgerald, VM
 - TE Jane Winters, HR

and **approve** the following additional Administrative Commissioners:

- TE Mike Capron, Northeast New Jersey Presbytery
- **grant** the moderator or his designee the authority to make any necessary and appropriate changes to the Administrative Commission to Install.
- **dismiss** the Administrative Commission with thanks, upon the completion of the Service of Installation.

RE Beth Newell (Geneva) shared the following recommendation, as approved by the Committee on Ministry with the concurrence of the General Council:

For individuals whose terms of call are already above the presbytery minimum we highly recommend that effective salary be increased by at least 2.5% for 2023.

TE Susan Frost (Newark, Park), member of the Committee on Ministry, led the Presbytery in a brief recognition service, honoring the retirement of CRE Carol Merrell (Wolcott, First).

Actions Taken On Behalf Of The Presbytery

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Approve the Transitional Pastor Covenant between the Park Presbyterian Church of Newark, NY, and the Rev. Susan Frost, effective November 21, 2022 to November 21, 2023, at the following terms:

Salary:	\$34,468
Housing:	\$18,376
SECA offset:	\$ —
Board of Pensions:	\$ 4,491 (Defined Benefit Plan @8.5%)
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 the stated pulpit supply & pastoral services covenant between the Presbyterian Church of Oaks Corners and the Rev. Karl Warrington, effective Sept. 1, 2022 to Aug. 31, 2023, at the following terms:

Cash:	\$110/Sunday Worship
Moderator of Session:	\$50/meeting
Pastoral Services:	\$20/hr. (i.e. church committee meetings, membership classes, etc.)
Visitation:	\$50/month
Emergencies:	Contact one of the following Jeanne Day, Sharon Scherbyrn, Mae Schweickhard for consent.
Travel Allowance:	all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile
Vacation:	4 weeks and 4 Sundays
Personal Days:	1 paid with prior approval from Session and 1 unpaid

Items For The Presbytery's Information

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Recommend to the Presbytery the following guidance: For individuals whose terms of call are already
- above the presbytery minimum we highly recommend that effective salary be increased by at least 2.5% for 2023.
- Approve the "Appointed Moderators" section of the COM Guidebook
- Approve for inclusion in the COM Guidebook: the Table of Pastor Types and the COM Manual General and
- COM Organization.
- Approve setting the minimum pulpit supply pay at \$125 plus mileage per service, beginning 2023
- Elect RE Cathy Foerster and RE Beth Newell to serve as the COM co-chairs for 2023. RE Beth Newell will
- serve as the Council Representative.

COMMITTEE ON VITALITY

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

- The Committee on Vitality thanks those congregations who have had their session minutes read. So far, 80% of our congregations have participated in the reading of the minutes.
- The committee is learning a lot about the many mission and other activities in which our congregations are engaged. There are lots of common issues, and the Vitality Committee is working on ways to coordinate the sharing of resources and ideas.

- There are several training events and workshops in the works for 2023; be sure to keep an eye on the Presbytery newsletter and other mailings for upcoming details.
- There are templates for policies that are required by the PCUSA and/or NYS available in the Vitality Committee's page on the Presbytery's website.

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS

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

Items for the Presbytery's Information

- Current financial reports are provided by the Treasurer. Let us know if you have any questions!

Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western), member of the Committee on Operations, provided a brief report on the first draft of the 2023 Presbytery Budget:

- The Presbytery Staff will receive a 4% pay increase
- The total amount available for mission grants will be increased to \$55,000
- There will be \$4,000 budgeted for a yearly youth retreat event
- If you have any questions about the proposed budget, please contact the Committee on Operations prior to January 10, 2023.

MATTHEW 25 SPOTLIGHT: WESTON PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

RE Alan Barton (Weston) and Howard Watts (Weston) described the Pop Can Mission of the Weston Presbyterian Church:

- Howard Watts – affectionately known as “The Can Man” – started collecting returnable bottles and cans in 2004, and raised \$114 for local missions. He set up a collection bin – quickly followed by a second and third collection bin – and soon they had raised several thousand dollars for local missions!
- Each year, the amount they have been able to raise with returnable bottles and cans has increased. Each year for the past 3 years, they have raised between \$10,000–11,000. They have already raised more than \$11,000 in 2022.
- The simple act of collecting returnable bottles and cans to benefit local missions has grown – as has the impact the congregation has been able to make in the local community. Between 2004 and 2021, the Pop Can Mission has raised over \$80,000 for local missions!

TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship) offered a prayer of thanksgiving and blessing for the Pop Can Ministry, its leadership, the Weston Presbyterian Church, and all of the missions they have been able to support.

SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST: COMMISSIONER REPORT

TE Aaron Frank (Horseheads, First), Synod Commissioner and Synod Mission and Ministries Commissioner, presented the report.

Synod of the Northeast — 2022 Biennial Meeting Outcomes — October 20 – 22, 2022

Attendees: RE Phoebe Baker, TE Cara Milne, RE Jeff Richards, TE Aaron Frank

Prior to the official gathering a day of learning was offered on Thursday, October 20th. Rev. Dr. David Anderson Hooker was the keynote speaker and built upon the theme of Matthew 25. Following Dr. Hooker's address participants had the opportunity to attend workshops which built upon the themes of Matthew 25. Rev. Aaron Frank attended the Vital Congregations Initiative (VCI) workshop, hosted by Rev. Aaron Neff and Ruling Elder Hezekiah Simmons of Pittsford Presbyterian Church in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. This was an inspiring presentation on how VCI can build upon existing success in local churches. Aaron also attended the “Creating a Culture of Change” workshop hosted by Rev. Richard Hong. Like the earlier workshop, this event rang through with encouragement for churches to embrace change and uncertainty as we all adapt to a changing landscape – religiously and culturally.

The Synod Assembly itself was a time of both business and friendly engagement with Presbyterians from across the region. A few highlights:

- Rev. Stephen Park Choi from the Presbytery of the Highlands (NJ) and pastor of Stewartville Presbyterian Church in Stewartville, New Jersey was elected Moderator.
- RE Lisa Baker from the Presbytery of Southern New England and member of the MLK Jr. Community Presbyterian Church of Springfield, MA was voted Moderator-Elect.
- Rev. Nancy Talbot from the Presbytery of New York was reelected Stated Clerk.
- Rev. Dr. Sandawna Gaulman Ashley, Transitional Synod Leader, presented her report on her leadership over the last year. She has worked on three goals: reestablishing a culture of trust; developing and establishing an effective synod narrative; and clarifying procedures, managing flow and collective energy.
- Synod will begin a Visioning process throughout 2023 and 2024, exploring the question: "What is your highest dream for what the Church can be in this age?" Our own Rev. Sabrina Slater will serve on this Discernment Team.
- Synod passed its budget for 2023 and 2024. However, the proposed increase to the Per Capita was voted down. The shortfall will be taken from investment reserves.
- A resolution to condemn the acts of human trafficking by Florida and Texas' governors was passed and a letter will be sent on behalf of the Synod to these states.
- A resolution to update Synod language and commissioner designations to include nonbinary individuals was passed.
- A resolution to be inclusive of all racial-ethnic individuals, especially Hispanic-Latino members, in future meetings was passed.

RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North), Synod Commissioner, encouraged members of the Presbytery to participate in the Synod of the Northeast if/when given the opportunity. It is a wonderful way to see and experience the rich diversity of ministries that exist with the Synod.

225th GENERAL ASSEMBLY: COMMISSIONER REPORTS

RE Virginia Champlin (Geneva), General Assembly Commissioner, presented her report:

The 225th General Assembly Plenary of the Presbyterian Church (USA) was held from July 5–9 remotely due to Covid. Committees met in Louisville, Kentucky on a staggered schedule between June 19-July 3 to maintain Covid protocols returning home to attend the Plenary remotely. I served on Bills and Overtures and its sub-Committee Protests and Dissents. I attended in person the Opening Worship, the Juneteenth Sunday Worship led by The Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson (Stated Clerk) and the election of the new co-moderators June 17-19. Both services were held in the Presbyterian Center Chapel. These two services plus all the daily Plenary Worship services are available for your viewing through the PCUSA Web Site.

The Revs. Ruth Santana-Grace and Shavon Starling-Louis were elected co-moderators and they ably conducted the business of the assembly with prayer and humor guided by a parliamentarian who kept everything decently and in order.

Each member of the Bills and Overtures Committee were assigned another committee to monitor. I was assigned International Relations attending remote while the committee met in person.

Some highlights of the work of the Assembly included:

- *Recognition that Israel's Laws, Policies and Practices Constitute Apartheid Against the Palestinian People*
This overture "recognizes that the laws, policies, and practices of the government of Israel regarding the Palestinian people fulfill the international legal definition of apartheid."
- *Fossil Fuel Divestment*
This overture reflected compliance with a previous General Assembly's environmental policy. It called for divestment from five oil and gas companies: Chevron, ExxonMobil, Marathon Petroleum, Phillips 66 and Valero Energy. This affects four agencies which invest funds: the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, Inc., the Board of Pensions of the Presbyterian Church (USA), the Presbyterian Church (USA) Foundation, and the New Covenant Trust Foundation.
- *Immigration*
The Immigration Committee sent this overture to the whole assembly in order to affirm that the PC(USA) is a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church." "The decision "sends a message that the church is committed to working for justice in U.S. immigration policy."
- *Ukraine*
According to a summary of the actions of the General Assembly, "By a vote of 340-25, the General Assembly approved [IMM-06](#), allowing the church to declare itself a "Sanctuary and Accompaniment Church." The assembly's Immigration Committee says the decision sends a message that the church is committed to working for justice in U.S. immigration policy."
- *Racial Justice*

From the Race and Gender Justice Committee, an overture that offered “an apology to African-Americans for the sin of slavery and its legacy.” An emotional reading a litany of repentance by the assembly. A special committee was also approved to “expose white supremacy within the denomination.”

- **YAAD**
Moved the minimum age for Young Adult Advisor Delegate from 17 to 18 to avoid the added expense to send along a chaperone.
- **Family Leave**
An amendment to the *Book of Order* calling for presbyteries to vote on including 12 weeks of family medical leave in a pastor’s term of call.
- **Pastor’s Retirement**
An item for the presbyteries to vote is the designation for pastors upon their retirement; no longer use “honorably.” If voted, a pastor will just be retired.
- **Next General Assembly (GA226)**
The next General Assembly will be held in Salt Lake City, Utah. All of the Committee work will be conducted online and the Plenary will be held in person June 29-July 3, 2024.

I thank the Geneva Presbytery for this opportunity to serve.

TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North), General Assembly Commissioner, presented his report:

This past summer, I had the honor and privilege of serving as your Teaching Elder Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly. I served as a member of the Moving Forward / Vision 2020 Committee. Our committee was tasked with considering the “The Guiding Statement” drafted by the 2020 Vision Team formed by the 222nd General Assembly; and, the work and recommendations of the Moving Forward Implementation Special Committee formed by the 223rd General Assembly.

During my time in Louisville, KY, I had the pleasure of working with our own Rev. Sabrina Slater, the co-chair of 2020 Vision Team, who was there as resource person assigned to our committee. With very minor changes, “The Guiding Statement” and the other recommendations of the 2020 Vision Team were approved and recommended for approval by the plenary. I am happy to report that these items were adopted by GA 225 as part of its consent agenda. I would recommend that we all take the opportunity to review and study “The Guiding Statement” adopted by GA 225.

After much discussion, deliberations, and amendments, our committee recommended that the plenary adopt the recommendations of the Moving Forward Implementation Special Committee which included merging the Office of General Assembly with the Presbyterian Mission Agency into one agency. This recommendation was not taken lightly. At plenary, our recommendations were adopted by the General Assembly. The actual process of how and when this will happen will be up to a commission appointed by GA 225’s co-moderators.

As mentioned in Virginia Champlin’s report, there are quite a few overtures that will be considered and voted upon by the presbyteries. The Office of General Assembly has created a PDF document that sets forth all thirty-three (33) overtures and their proposed changes to the Book of Order. It can be found at [ga225 bk of amends 2022 final update nov11 2022.pdf](https://www.pcusa.org/ga225-bk-of-amends-2022-final-update-nov11-2022.pdf) (pcusa.org). The proposed changes range from updating parts of the Book of Order to include more inclusive language to an entirely rewritten Rules of Discipline.

I want to thank the Presbytery of Geneva for commissioning me to be your Teaching Elder Commissioner to GA 225. As I stated in the beginning, it was an honor and a privilege to serve at General Assembly and to participate in the governance of our denomination.

TE Deb Grohman (Ontario Center, First), Moderator, asked Vice Moderator RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) to moderate the remainder of the meeting.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

TE Paul Malles (Penn Yan, First), co-chair of the Committee on Representation, presented the names of 3 persons to serve particular terms on specific Presbytery committees.

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to:

- **Elect** the following persons to serve on Presbytery Committees:
 - Committee on Ministry
 - Class of 2023: RE Kerm Bossard (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship)
 - Class of 2025: RE Joanne Tunison (Elmira, First)

- Class of 2025: TE Paul Rack (HR)

GOOD NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONS

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

COMMISSIONING OF 2023 PRESBYTERY MODERATOR

The Stated Clerk, TE Amy Loving Austin (Seneca #9 and Bellona), led the Presbytery of Geneva in the Service of Commissioning for RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) to serve as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Geneva, effective January 1, 2023.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) offered the Resolution of Thanks.
(Sung to the tune of *We Gather Together*)

We gather together to ask the Lord's Blessing
For Pultney and Paul and Lynn and Carol
Whose presence and service is much appreciated
Blessings for your ministries, our deep gratitude.

Beside us to guide us with thank you Marji
The moderators, the chairs and the clerks
For all the committees and the work they are doing
We express our thanksgiving for the treasurers too.

We all do extol thee Elena triumphant
For the calls, the emails, and website updates
We are the Presbytery of Geneva
and we do God's work together, radiating Christ's light.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

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

The Vice Moderator offered prayer and benediction, and pronounced the meeting to be adjourned at 7:16 pm.

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

Additional Written Reports Provided to the Presbytery on November 29, 2022

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY

November 29, 2022 – Zoom.us

[From the meetings of 10/11/22 and 11/08/22]

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION: (Provided in the Consent Agenda)

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(Committee on Ministry)

Concur with the COM and **recommend to the Presbytery** the following guidance: For individuals whose terms of call are already above the presbytery minimum we highly recommend that effective salary be increased by at least 2.5% for 2023.

(Presbytery Meetings)

Empower TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva) and TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) to develop guidelines for Presbytery worship services.

Approve the following dates for Stated Meetings of the Presbytery of Geneva:

- 2023 Presbytery Meeting Dates
 - Saturday, January 28, 2023
 - Tuesday, March 28, 2023
 - Tuesday, May 23, 2023
 - Tuesday, September 26, 2023
 - Tuesday, November 28, 2023
- 2024 Presbytery Meeting Date
 - Saturday, January 27, 2024

(Bills and Overtures)

Approve the formation of a Bills and Overtures Task Group, consisting of RE Virginia Champlin and TE Evan Hansen (Commissioners from the 225th GA) and RE Jeff Richards (Moderator), with the Stated Clerk and Presbytery Leader serving as resources; this task group will develop the plan by which the Presbytery will review and vote on the 33 amendments proposed by the 225th General Assembly. The Stated Clerk will convene the task group to begin their work before the end of this year.

Letter from the Presbytery Leader – November

Greetings to each of you as we enter into the holiday season!

There is much to celebrate and be thankful for as I highlight some of the activities of the presbytery over the past few months.

Fellowship events for the entire presbytery are underway! In November, Dinner Church at Geneva was incredible: delicious food, wonderful music, amazing fellowship, and an experience of church like no other. If you were unable to attend, I certainly encourage your congregations to explore this possibility for your future! In addition, please keep in mind the coming Mission Activity on December 3rd at Elmira North – we hope you can join us.

Discernment of future directions is an on-going activity that has been taking place as we continue with the use of technology for presbytery meetings, explore the future of our struggling congregations and the structures of presbytery leadership, and gather information around opportunities to strengthen/expand ministries at Camp Whitman. We continue to work with surrounding presbyteries as well, planning a joint Learning Day to be offered in the spring (March 4, 2023).

We continue to fine-tune the application process for mission grant opportunities and celebrate the ministries they've made possible. Ideas are currently being shared around a 'mission fair' to spread the news of congregational activities.

Committees continue to expand support for small congregations and individuals facing difficult challenges. The desire to learn what our churches need and how best to connect them to available resources is very strong. Many links have been added to the presbytery website for those who need help in specific areas and several options for training events are currently being explored. Finding more effective ways to review session minutes in order to celebrate the life of the congregation is helping to improve relationships across the board and opens conversations around the future of our churches.

These are just a few of the activities made possible by the mission and per capita offerings received from the congregations of this presbytery. By providing staff support and operating funds for each of these committees, we are able to move forward together to become the Church and the people God has called us to be. We sincerely thank you for the gifts you have shared.

With great celebration, we give thanks and praise for the dedication of volunteers and committee members who have answered the call to serve in leadership roles, and for the faithfulness of congregations and individuals who give so generously of their time, talents, and treasures. May God continue to bless each of you this holiday season and may our ministry efforts continue to demonstrate God's love to the world.

In Christ,
Rev. Marji Ackerman,
Presbytery Leader