

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 Saturday, January 28, 2023, held electronically via Zoom.us.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

8:45 am Registration and Fellowship Time (through 9:00 am)

CALL TO ORDER

RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North), Moderator, called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, 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 (CM)		MORELAND	A - Paul Yoder (CRE)	
ARKPORT, FIRST	A - Bruce Incze		NAPLES, TRINITY FEDERATED	A - Michael Whitcomb-Tavey (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)	A - Martha Evans	PAINTED POST, UNITED	EX - David Preisendanz	
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	A - Wade Allen (CM)	Linda Werts	PALMYRA, WESTERN	-----	Philip Opdycke
CANISTEO, FIRST	Michelle Serra (G)		PENN YAN, FIRST	EX - Paul Malles	Rob Anderson
COHOCTON, FIRST	-----	Linda Hodges	PHELPS, UNITED	A - James Tyrrell (CM)	Peg Carlson
CORNING, FIRST	A - Jeffrey Ugoretz	Kay Rogus	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	-----	A - Lynn Dinehart
EAST PALMYRA, FIRST	-----		PULTENEY, FIRST	-----	Mary Jane Peek
ELMIRA, FIRST	Lynn Rubier-Capron	Alida Schamel	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	Pam Ells

HAMMONDSPORT, FIRST	----	Linda Kressly	SENECA FALLS, FIRST	EX - Leah Ntuala	Susan Divine Sholar
HECTOR	Daniel Russell	EX - Charles Knight	SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	
HORNELL, UNITED	Katherine Griffis	Lisa Sanford	SODUS, FIRST	Gail Heimberger	A - Keith Blackall
HORSEHEADS, FIRST	EX - Aaron Frank	Lori Ann Congdon	SPENCER, CHRIST THE KING FELLOWSHIP	Sabrina Slater	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 Kirianna Weaver	Brad McFall	WATKINS GLEN, FIRST	Cara Milne	Karen Rhodes
JASPER, UNITED	A - Brain Dieffenbacher (CM)		WESTON	----	Barry Winters
JUNIUS	EX - Ellen Donnan	A - Kristi Ward	WOLCOTT, FIRST	A - Walter Stuber (CM)	Dolores Gingerich
LYONS, FIRST	----	Joanne Reinhardt			

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

Present: Marjorie Ackerman (VM) Adrian Tierson (VM) Glenn Kennedy (AL)
 David Ashby (AL) Jane Winters (HR) Robert Rochelle (HR)

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

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

Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) MODERATOR	Tom Bailey (Spencer) TREASURER		A - Paul Yoder (Horseheads, First) CRE (Moreland)
Pricilla Andrews (Rock Stream) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Richard Evans (Watkins Glen, First) CRE (Burdett)	EX - Bob Sell (Horseheads, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	John Gingerich (Wolcott, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)
A - Carleen Frost (Sodus, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Don Peek (Pulteney, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Connie Franks (Ontario, First) CRE (Shortsville, First)
Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western) COUNCIL (Operations)	EX - Beth Newell (Geneva) COUNCIL (COM)	Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First) COUNCIL (RE At-Large)	Cathy Foerster (Penn Yan, First) COUNCIL (COM alternate)

PRESBYTERY STAFF (granted voice)

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

REGISTERED GUESTS (Current Meeting; granted voice)

Brian Hemminger (Phelps) Nan Clark (Phelps) Virginia Champlin (Geneva)
 Ginny Kachurak (Red Creek) Michelle Serra (Hornell, First)

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2023	Jan 28						
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	23						
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	38						
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+15						
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	3						

Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders****	24						
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors****	15						
Total Registered Visitors and Staff	7						
Total Registered Attendance*****	69						

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

- 8:45 AM Registration and fellowship time (through 9:00 AM)
- 9:00 AM Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer
- 9:05 AM Introductory Business
 - Call for New Business & Approval of the Docket
 - Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests
 - Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land
- 9:20 AM Consent Agenda
 - Additional Motion from Committee on Representation
- 9:25 AM Committee on Ministry
 - Examine the Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder for membership in the Presbytery of Geneva; sustain the examination; and approve her transfer of membership to the Presbytery of Geneva, effective January 29, 2023.
 - Approve the call of The United Church of Phelps, NY, to the Rev. Dr. Heather Leigh Holder to be their installed pastor, and appoint the Rev. Heather Leigh Holder to be their Moderator, effective February 13, 2023.
- 9:50 AM Worship and the Lord's Supper [TE Susan Frost (Newark, Park), presiding]
- 10:30 AM Necrology Report [Committee on Leader Care]
- 10:45 AM Administrative Commission for the Atlanta Presbyterian Church
 - Concur in the vote of the congregation that the congregation and corporation of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church be dissolved; authorize the Administrative Commission to seek and take any actions necessary or advisable to obtain any necessary approvals, including from the NYS Supreme Court; authorize the Administrative Commission to pay all known expenses of the corporation; and authorize the Committee on Operations to distribute the remaining assets after closing costs, etc., of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church to local nonprofit entities and/or to the Presbytery of Geneva, with the guidance of the remaining congregation members of the congregation.
- 11:00 AM Committee on Operations [TE David Ashby (VM)]
- 11:10 AM Committee on Vitality [TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First)]
- 11:15 AM Good News from Congregations
 - * To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
- 11:25 AM Resolution of Thanks [TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva)]
- 11:30 AM Benediction and Adjournment

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

TE Susan Frost (Newark, Park), 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 November 29, 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 December Operating Statement and Balance Statement and Treasurer's report.
4. **Approve** the 2023 Budget, as endorsed by the Committee on Operations and the General Council.
5. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to the Rev. Ellen Donnan, effective February 1, 2023.
6. **Invite** the following persons to serve as "additional elder commissioners" for 2023:

Committee/Council Leadership:
RE Cathy Foerster (Penn Yan, First) – Committee on Ministry

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK

1. A reminder: the Annual Statistical Reports that congregations are required to file with the Office of the General Assembly of the PC(USA) are to be completed online by February 15, 2023. If you need assistance with completing your report, please contact the Stated Clerk: StatedClerk@PresbyteryOfGeneva.org
2. The Presbytery of Geneva will begin voting on overtures from the 225th General Assembly at our March meeting. 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 http://qa225_bk_of_amends_2022_final_update_nov11_2022.pdf (pcusa.org). I encourage all minister members and presbytery commissioners to review this document prior to the March meeting.
3. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars: <https://www.synodne.org/webinars>

ADDITIONAL MOTION FROM COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

The Stated Clerk presented a motion submitted by the Committee on Representation. The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to **approve** the election of TE Robert Rochelle (HR) to serve on the Mission and Witness Committee, class of 2025.

THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

RE Cathy Foerster (Penn Yan, First), co-chair of the Committee on Ministry, presented the report.

Items For Presbytery's Action

The Presbytery examined TE Dr. H. Leigh Holder 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. Dr. H. Leigh Holder and **authorize** the Stated Clerk to complete the required notifications effective January 29, 2023
- **approve** the call of The United Church of Phelps, NY, to the Rev. Dr. Heather Leigh Holder to be their installed pastor, and **appoint** the Rev. Heather Leigh Holder to be their Moderator, effective February 13, 2023 at the following terms of call:

Salary:	\$ 39,135.57
Housing	\$ 20,864.43
SECA offset	\$ 4,590
Board of Pensions	\$ 23,400
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)

Actions Taken On Behalf Of The Presbytery

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Approve the request of the session of the Presbyterian Church of Addison, NY, for a waiver of the term limit requirements for RE Constance McCarrick, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404.
- Approve the request of the session of the Presbyterian Church of Junius, NY, for a waiver of the term limit requirements for RE Kristi Ward, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404.
- Approve the request of the session of the First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads, NY, for a waiver of the term limit requirements for RE Doug Day, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404.
- Approve the appointment of RE John Gingerich as moderator of the session and meetings of the congregation for Red Creek Presbyterian Church.
- Approve the request for waiver to term limits from the First Presbyterian Church of Hammondsport for Ruling Elders James Walling, Linda Kressly and Jane Griswold to serve additional 1 year terms on Session, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404..
- Appoint TE Jane Winters (HR) to serve as the Moderator at Junius, effective February 1, 2023.

Items for the Presbytery's Information:

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Approve the Temporary Pastor Covenant between the session of the Presbyterian Church of Addison, NY, and the Rev. Dr. Peter Marr, effective January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023, at the following terms:
 - Salary: \$ 8,743
 - Housing: \$ 9,890
 - Travel: all church mileage at current IRS rate for business
 - Study Leave: \$ 1,000 and 2 Weeks (including 2 Sundays)
 - Vacation: 31 Days (including 4 Sundays)
- Approve COM Guidebook section 2
- Approve COM Guidebook section 5
- Approve COM Guidebook section 5a
- Approve setting the stated COM meeting time to the first Tuesday of each month at 1:00pm
- Appoint RE Cathy Foerster as alternate COM representative to the January 29 Presbytery meeting.
- Approve the request of Weston Presbyterian Church for the Rev. Barbara Swartz to provide pulpit supply for a Lenten and Easter Sunday series on 7 consecutive Sundays, February 26 to April 9, 2023.
- Approve the Covenant for Temporary Supply Pastor between the Rev. Walter Stuber and the First Presbyterian Church of Wolcott for 2023 with waiver on including SECA. [Note: because the effective salary is well above Presbytery minimums, SECA is not included.] This covenant is effective January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023 (½ time) at the following terms:
 - Cash Salary: \$ 11,093
 - Housing Allowance: 18,500
 - Pension/Medical: 11,260
 - Travel Allowance: 1,500 all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate
 - Business/Professional: 1,000
 - Study Leave: 500
 - Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
 - Vacation Time: 31 days, including 4 Sundays
- Approve the Covenant Agreement between the Presbyterian Church of Addison and Rev. Dr. Peter Marr, effective January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023, (¼ time) at the following terms:
 - Cash Salary: \$ 8,743
 - Housing Allowance: 9,890
 - Pension/Medical: na
 - Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate
 - Study Leave: 1,000
 - Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
 - Vacation Time: 31 days, including 4 Sundays
- Approve Section 2 of the Guidebook: the COM Annual Reports Chart.
- Approve Section 3 of the Guidebook: Pastors in Congregational Service
- Approve the dissolution agreement and the Promoting Healthy Boundaries agreement between the Rev. Ellen Donnan and the Junius Presbyterian Church on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva.
- Approve the Covenant Relationship between Rev. Christian Mattison (7th Day Baptist) and the Andover First Presbyterian Church of Andover, NY, to serve as the part-time Covenanted Pastor, effective January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023, at the following terms:
 - Salary: \$ 10,500
 - Housing: 10,500
 - Travel: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate
 - Vacation Time: 3 weeks

WORSHIP AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Presbytery of Geneva engaged in a service of worship, led by the Rev. Susan Frost and the members of the Park Presbyterian Church in Newark, NY. The pre-recorded worship included a sermon given by Rev. Susan Frost, as well as the celebration (online) of the Lord's Supper.

NECROLOGY REPORT

Administrative Support Services Manager, Elena Delhagen (Staff), presented the Necrology Report that was submitted by the Committee on Leader Care:

2022 Necrology Report

Sue Benwitz	Huron
James "Jim" Bottcher	Elmira North
Florence Chapin	Huron
Florence Clark	Pulteney
Timothy J Cooley (2021)	Seneca 9

Ed DeHullu	Sodus
Diane Dietz	Shortsville
Rev. Harold Delhagen (HR)	
Marilyn Fitch	Penn Yan
John Fouracre	Geneva
Sandra Fox	Bath
Junior "Gippy" Gibson	Pulteney
Frank J. Hamm, Jr.	Corning
Yvonne Hartley	Wolcott
Agnes Hoefler	Geneva
Edie Kelly	Burdett
Marshall Larrabee	Penn Yan
Barbara Leach	Bath
Scott Lockwood	Wolcott
Alice Maher	Shortsville
Sally Lauriet Marx	Christ the King
Carol Morse	Geneva
Gordon Neal	Sodus
James Opelt	Pulteney
Nancy Ann Ottnod	Park
Harriett Potter	Pulteney
Martha Shafer	Arkport
Norman Snow	Penn Yan
Rev. Marlin B Stewart (HR)	
Lillian Strong	Wolcott
Nancy Teemly	Burdett
Janet Van Brunt	Hornell
Ruth Walters	Bath
Kathleen Weller	Canisteo
William Whitaker	Penn Yan
Rev. Carol Wilson (HR)	
Len Zwick	Waterloo (first ordained at Junius)

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION FOR THE ATLANTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

TE Katherine Griffis (Hornell, United), chair of the Administrative Commission for the Atlanta Presbyterian Church, presented the report.

**ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT
ATLANTA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
January 28, 2023**

The Administrative Commission for the Atlanta Presbyterian Church approved the following resolution on January 9, 2023:

Since the congregation of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church voted on September 28, 2021 to dissolve the church and to work with an Administrative Commission of the Presbytery of Geneva to sell the church building; and

The sale of the building of the Atlanta Presbytery to the Redefined Church closed on or about November 4, 2022;

The Atlanta Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission now agrees to:

Approve the dissolution of the congregation and corporation of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church as soon as practicable;

Recommend to the Presbytery of Geneva that it concur in the vote of the congregation that the congregation and corporation of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church be dissolved;

Seek and take any actions necessary or advisable to obtain any necessary approvals, including from the NYS Supreme Court after receiving approval from the Presbytery;

Pay all known expenses of the corporation; and

Distribute the remaining assets after closing costs, etc., of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church to local nonprofit entities and/or to the Presbytery of Geneva, with the guidance of the remaining congregation members of the congregation.

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to:

- **Concur** in the vote of the congregation that the congregation and corporation of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church be dissolved; **authorize the Administrative Commission** to seek and take any actions necessary or advisable to obtain any necessary approvals, including from the NYS Supreme Court; **authorize the Administrative Commission** to pay all known expenses of the corporation; and **authorize the Committee on Operations** to distribute the remaining assets after closing costs, etc., of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church to local nonprofit entities and/or to the Presbytery of Geneva, with the guidance of the remaining congregation members of the congregation.

Rev. Griffis led the Presbytery in prayer for the Atlanta congregation.

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS

TE David Ashby (AL), chair of the Committee on Operations, thanked the Presbytery for approving the 2023 Budget.

COMMITTEE ON VITALITY

TE Dan Russell (Hector), TE Kirianne Weaver (Ithaca, First), and RE Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta), members of the Committee on Vitality, presented the report.

- The Committee on Vitality thanks those congregations who have had their session minutes read. Those congregations that still need to have their minutes read will be hearing from a member of the Vitality Committee to complete that review.
- The full class schedule and registration information for Congregational Learning Day can be found at: <https://pbygenval.org/congregational-learning-day/>
- The committee will be sending out requests for people to share their story (on video) related to why they attend their church.
- The committee will also be asking congregations to share about mission projects that are ongoing in their church and communities.

GOOD NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONS

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

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva) offered the Resolution of Thanks.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

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

The Moderator offered prayer and benediction, and pronounced the meeting to be adjourned at 11:23am.

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

Additional Written Reports Provided to the Presbytery on January 28, 2023

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY

January 28, 2023 -- Zoom.us

[From the meetings of 12/13/2022 and 01/10/2023]

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION: None

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The General Council VOTED to:

(Presbytery Meetings)

Approve holding the January 2023 and March 2023 Presbytery meetings online, the May 2023 and September 2023 meetings in person, and the November 2023 and January 2024 meetings online.

Take up a collection at the in-person May Presbytery Meeting to support the Pastors' Emergency Fund.

(Committee on Ministry)

Approve the formation of a task group to discuss the formation of a Committee on Preparation for Ministry, and, if necessary, propose the appropriate changes to the Presbytery's Manual of Administrative Operations.

(Vision, Mission, and Presbyterian Partnerships)

Schedule an in-person retreat for the Council to discern and plan for our future directions for the Presbytery of Geneva (including our future relationships with neighboring Presbyteries and other denominations).

(Committee on Operations)

Recommend the Presbytery approve the 2023 budget.

Letter from the Presbytery Leader – January

Happy New Year Greetings to the Presbytery of Geneva!

After a wonderful holiday season and a few winter storms, our committees are 'back in action' and doing a wonderful job. Special thanks to each of you for your hard work and dedication to keep things running smoothly.

A big 'thank you' as well to everyone who helped with the service project on MLK Day and to Elmira North for hosting us and providing a fantastic meal. Volunteers finished the project very quickly, which allowed plenty of time for fellowship. Thank you all for your participation!

For those of you who are looking for ideas in preparation for Lent, please join us for continuing discussions on Tuesdays and Thursdays in February. We will be covering the lectionary passages for holy week – please see the schedule and zoom links on the presbytery website.

Coming up this spring, there will be a series of in-person workshops to help congregations explore a variety of possibilities around worship models, legacies, and planning for the future. If your church is interested in hosting one of these events, please reach out to me at leader@presbyteryofgeneva.org as soon as possible so the schedule can be finalized. More details will be shared as plans come together over the next few weeks – we hope you can join us!

As we journey together throughout the coming year, may God continue to bless each and every one of you. Health and happiness to you always!

In Christ's service,
Marji Ackerman, Presbytery Leader