

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, May 23, 2023, held in person at Camp Whitman and electronically via Zoom.us.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

9:00 am Registration and Fellowship Time (through 10:00 am)

CALL TO ORDER

RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North), Moderator, called the meeting to order at 10:05 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)	A - Frank Halstead
ANDOVER, FIRST	A - C. Mattison (CM)		MORELAND	A - Paul Yoder (CRE)	
ARKPORT, FIRST	Bruce Incze		NAPLES, TRINITY FEDERATED	A - Michael Whitcomb-Tavey (CM)	A - Jessie Olney
	-----	-----	NEWARK, PARK	Susan Frost	A - Anne Rogers
BATH, FIRST	John Woodring (CM)	Dean Chatfield	OAKS CORNERS	A - Karl Warrington	
BELLONA, MEMORIAL	Amy Loving Austin	Jane Hansen	ONTARIO CENTER, FIRST	Deborah Grohman	
BIG FLATS, FIRST	Ex - Denise Stone	EX - Robin Fitzgerald	OVID, FEDERATED	Rob Mellgard	Ex - Judy Mellgard
BURDETT	Richard Evans (CRE)	A - Martha Evans	PAINTED POST, UNITED	David Preisendanz	Hank Jonas
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	A - Wade Allen (CM)	Ex - Linda Werts	PALMYRA, WESTERN	----	Philip Opdycke
CANISTEO, FIRST	Michelle Serra (G)		PENN YAN, FIRST	Paul Malles	Rob Anderson
COHOCTON, FIRST	----	Linda Hodges	PHELPS, UNITED	H. Leigh Holder	Ex - Peg Carlson
CORNING, FIRST	Jeffrey Ugoretz	A - Alexander Moore	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	----	Lynn Dinehart
EAST PALMYRA, FIRST	----	EX - Judith Langdon	PULTENEY, FIRST	----	Mary Jane Peek
ELMIRA, FIRST	EX - Lynn Rubier-Capron	A - Heather Cranford	RED CREEK		A - Virginia Kachurak
ELMIRA, NORTH	Evan Hansen	Ex - 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	----	A - Linda Kressly	SENECA FALLS, FIRST	Leah Ntuala	A - Susan Sholar

HECTOR	EX - Daniel Russell	A - Charles Knight	SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	
HORNELL, UNITED	Katherine Griffis	Earl Packard	SODUS, FIRST	Gail Heimberger	A - Keith Blackall
HORSEHEADS, FIRST	Aaron Frank	Jim Ellison	SPENCER, CHRIST THE KING FELLOWSHIP	Sabrina Slater	Gail Maureen
HOWARD, UNION	-----		TRUMANSBURG, FIRST ULYSSES	Susan Joseph Rack	A - Pamela Postle
HURON		Lois Wafler	WATERLOO, FIRST	Anita Milne	A - George Bassett
ITHACA, FIRST	Ex - Cynthia Weaver Kirianne Weaver	Ex - Brad McFall	WATKINS GLEN, FIRST	Cara Milne	Patti Smith
JASPER, UNITED	A - Brain Dieffenbacher (CM)		WESTON	-----	Barry Winters
JUNIUS	---	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)	James Kerr (HR)	Robert Rochelle (HR)
	Paul Rack (HR)	Jane Winters (HR)	Cynthia Huling Hummel (HR)
	Thomas Montgomery (HR)	John Milne (HR)	Glenn Kennedy (AL)
	David Ashby (AL)	Sam Edwards (HR)	
Excused:	Betsey Crimmins (HR)	Jeff Kellam (HR)	Philip Courtney (HR)
	David Barnard (HR)	Susan Husted (HR)	Jim Gerling (HR)
	Adrian Tierson (VM)	Ellen Donnan (HR)	Robin Lostetter (HR)
	Beverly Karr Lyon (HR)	James Hicks (HR)	Janice Fitzgerald (VM)

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)
A - Pricilla Andrews (Rock Stream) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Richard Evans (Watkins Glen, First) CRE (Burdett)	Bob Sell (Horseheads, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	John Gingerich (Wolcott, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)
Carleen Frost (Sodus, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	A - 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)	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)

Marion Nicastro (Weston) Virginia Champlin (Geneva) Michelle Serra (Hornell, United)
Peter Fadden (Palmyra, Western) Barbara Goodrich (Cohocton, First) Robert Bidlack (Atlanta AC)
Lisa Sanford (Hornell, United) Bev Packard (Hornell, United)

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2023	Jan 28	Mar 28	May 23				
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	23	30	31				
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	38	33	30				
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+15	+3	-1				
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	3	8	1				

Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders****	24	28	32			
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors****	15	17	19			
Total Registered Visitors and Staff	7	5	10			
Total Registered Attendance*****	69	68	72			
In Person (IP) / Virtual (V) Attendance Totals	0 IP 69 V	0 IP 68 V	60 IP 12 V			

* 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:

- | | |
|----------|---|
| 9:00 AM | Registration and fellowship time (through 10:00 AM) |
| 10:00 AM | Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer |
| 10:10 AM | Introductory Business
Call for New Business & Approval of the Docket
Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land [TE Paul Malles (Penn Yan, First)] |
| 10:20 AM | Consent Agenda & Clerk's Report |
| 10:30 AM | A Moment to Grieve
Response: May we reach out in honesty and love. |
| 10:40 AM | Call to Worship
In the midst of a world where people hunger and thirst . . .
<i>come worship a God who feeds the hungry.</i>
In the midst of a world where people are abused and oppressed . . .
<i>come worship a God who calls for compassion and justice.</i>
In the midst of a world filled with wars and rumors of war . . .
<i>come worship a God who desires nothing less than peace for the world.</i>
In the midst of a world of spiritual emptiness . . .
<i>come worship a God who gives life meaning.</i>
<i>Come worship a God whose grace and love know no end.</i> |
| 10:45 AM | Committee on Camp Whitman [TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva) and RE Lea Kone (Camp Dir.)]
Review of Camp Updates |
| 10:55 AM | First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport: Sale and Dissolution
<i>The Session and Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport, with the concurrence of the Committee on Operations and the General Council of the Presbytery of Geneva, moves the Presbytery to:</i>
1. Approve the sale of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport property to Wellspring Hammondsport for \$1. Authorize and direct the Session of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport to take all actions useful and necessary to close the transaction on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva and the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport.
2. Concur with the congregation's vote to dissolve the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport, effective the date of the closing day of the property sale or as soon thereafter as practicable.
3. Recommend that any remaining funds from church accounts after the sale be distributed based on the recommendations of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport as follows : Presbytery of Geneva Reserve Funds (50%), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (50%)
4. Concur with the Session to conduct a worship celebration of the ministry of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 2 PM to be held at the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport. |
| 11:05 AM | Final Report of the AC for The Presbyterian Church of Atlanta
Receive the Final Report
Dissolve The Presbyterian Church of Atlanta, effective final distribution of funds
Service of Thanksgiving |
| 11:25 AM | Committee on Operations [TE David Ashby (AL)] |
| 11:30 AM | Worship & the Lord's Supper [TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First), presiding]
Gathering Song [led by TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva)]
Scripture Lesson |

	Lectio Divina [led by TE Anita Milne (Waterloo, First)]
	Communion
12:00 PM	Lunch
12:30 PM	Committee on Vitality [TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First)] Minute for Mission: Cohocton
12:35 PM	Committee on Ministry [RE Beth Newell (Geneva)] Examination for Ordination: Michelle Serra, Candidate for Ministry
12:55 PM	Bills and Overtures Task Group [TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) & RE Virginia Champlin (Geneva)] 22-I – G-2.0804 TERMS OF CALL <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adds the requirement of a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave in terms of call for all installed pastors/associate pastors. 22-S – G-4.0301 TRUST AND CONFIDENTIALITY <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Expands and clarifies “confidentiality” requirements for ministers and commissioned pastors. 22-GG – REPLACING THE CURRENT “RULES OF DISCIPLINE” WITH A NEW “CHURCH DISCIPLINE” SECTION (ROD-03) <ul style="list-style-type: none">• A proposed complete revision of the Rules of Discipline, with a new “Church Discipline” section of the Book of Order.
1:25 PM	Committee on Leader Care [TE Bruce Incze (Arkport, First)]
1:30 PM	Committee on Representation [TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King)]
1:40 PM	Good News from Congregations * To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
1:50 PM	A Word from the Presbytery Leader [TE Marji Ackerman (VM)]
1:55 PM	Resolution of Thanks [TE Deb Grohman (Ontario Center, First)]
2:00 PM	Benediction and Adjournment

CALL FOR NEW BUSINESS & APPROVAL OF THE DOCKET

The Moderator asked if there was any new business to be added to the docket, and none was offered. The Presbytery VOTED to **approve** the docket.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

TE Paul Malles (Penn Yan, First), offered acknowledgement of the first stewards of the land where we live and serve.

FURTHER INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

Rev. Colin Pritchard (Geneva) led the Presbytery in a few songs of praise as the Presbytery began its work and worship.

The Stated Clerk noted that the theme of the day was “Celebration”, as this was the first in-person meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva since January of 2020. As the Moderator welcomed new commissioners, Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) and Rev. Anita Milne (Waterloo, First) announced that everyone was getting a new car – that is to say, a new *toy* car.

CONSENT AGENDA

Three items (items 4-j, 7, and 8) were pulled from the consent agenda to be considered during the Bills & Overtures (4-j) and COM (7 and 8) reports.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the March 28, 2023 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 April Operating Statement and Balance Statement and Treasurer’s report.
4. **Approve** the following Amendments to the *Book of Order*, as recommended by The Committee on Proposed Amendments to the *Book of Order* from the 225th General Assembly (2022) :
 - a. 22-T – W-3.0205 CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS
Adds administration of the sacrament of Baptism to the list of appropriate actions following the proclamation of forgiveness in a service of worship.
 - b. 22-U – W-3.0409 THEOLOGY OF THE LORD’S SUPPER

- Adds “when appropriate” to the recommended act of providing an invitation to baptismal preparation for those who come to the table who are unbaptized.
- c. 22-V – W-3.0414 COMMUNION
Removes the current requirement that a minister of the Word and Sacrament lead the prayer of thanksgiving that concludes the Lord’s Supper liturgy.
 - d. 22-W – W-4.0403 ORDER OF WORSHIP
Adds a sentence about “signs and symbols of blessing” to the section on ordination and installation services.
 - e. 22-X – W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP
Adds a sentence on the importance of household worship in faith formation in the Reformed tradition.
 - f. 22-Y – W-5.0104 HOUSEHOLD WORSHIP
Adds an additional paragraph to the existing section on household worship.
 - g. 22-Z – W-5.0201 THE CHURCH’S MINISTRY WITHIN THE COMMUNITY OF FAITH
Adds “discipleship” to a list of the Church’s ministries that are connected to its worship, and adds references to statements in the Foundations of Presbyterian Polity.
 - h. 22-AA – W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE
Adds “particular specialized pastoral care” rather than adding to an existing list of such specialties.
 - i. 22-BB – W-5.0204 PASTORAL CARE
Adds clarifying language in a section on “services of wholeness” to better express a Reformed understanding of those services.
 - j. [removed for later consideration]
 - k. 22-DD – D-10.0302 IF CHARGES ARE TO BE FILED (ROD-04 3)
Grammatical change to an existing provision of the Rules of Discipline, using plural language (“they”).
(Note: This change to the Book of Order will only be effective, if and only if, 22-G – Church Discipline Section is not approved by the presbyteries.)
 - l. 22-EE – D-10.0303 PETITION FOR REVIEW
Amends the current Rules of Discipline to include notifying in writing both the person accused (if no charges will be filed) as well as the person(s) who made the initial accusation.
(Note: This change to the Book of Order will only be effective, if and only if, 22-G – Church Discipline Section is not approved by the presbyteries.)
 - m. 22-FF – AMENDING THE USE OF “THE ACCUSED” IN THE CURRENT RULES OF DISCIPLINE
Changes the words “the accused” to “the person accused” wherever it occurs in the current Rules of Discipline.
(Note: This change to the Book of Order will only be effective, if and only if, 22-G – Church Discipline Section is not approved by the presbyteries.)
5. **Approve** the following change to the Manual of Administrative Operations:
Move the responsibility for “farewells” from COM responsibilities to the Committee on Leader Care responsibilities, and that the language be revised as follows: “Plan for appropriate farewells for those ~~leaving the presbytery~~ or retiring from parish ministry, and make arrangements with the presbytery moderator for meeting docket time.”
6. **Grant** the status of Honorably Retired to Rev. Katherine Griffis effective June 1, 2023.
7. [removed for later consideration]
8. [removed for later consideration]

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY’S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK

- 1. PCUSA Clergy Cards are available from the Stated Clerk today. Any cards not distributed today will be delivered by Leader Care liaisons ASAP.
- 2. The Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery of Geneva for the purpose of installing the Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder as pastor of the United Church of Phelps met at 2 p.m. on 05/07/2023 in the Pastor’s Office. Commission Members Present were: RE Jeff Richards, Moderator of the Presbytery of Geneva (Elmira North); TE Amy Loving Austin (Seneca #9 and Bellona, Memorial); RE Elizabeth Newell (Geneva); TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First); RE Brian Hemminger (Phelps, United); other worship participants present were: TE Dr. R. Ward Holder (Presbytery of Boston) and Katharine Schrader. There being a quorum present, the Commission was convened with prayer by Moderator Jeff Richards. The Commission elected TE Amy Loving Austin as clerk for the proceedings with the responsibility of

recording and filing the minutes. All things being prepared in advance, decently and in order, the Commission voted to proceed with the installation of Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder as directed by Presbytery. The Commission moved to the sanctuary for the service of installation. The call to worship was given by RE Jeff Richards. The sermon was delivered by TE Dr. R. Ward Holder. The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was not celebrated. An offering was collected to benefit the Presbytery of Geneva Candidates' Aid Fund. The constitutional questions were asked of the candidate by Moderator Jeff Richards. The constitutional questions were asked of the congregation by RE Brian Hemminger. The constitutional questions having been answered in the affirmative, the Commission proceeded, by the laying on of hands, to install as pastor The Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder. The charge to the installee was given by TE Leah Ntuala. The charge to the congregation was given by RE Beth Newell. The benediction/closing prayer was pronounced by TE Dr. H. Leigh Holder. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Amy Loving Austin

3. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars: <https://www.synodne.org/webinars>

Stated Clerk, Rev. Amy Loving Austin (Seneca #9 & Bellona, Memorial), invited the Presbytery to recognize the people who served as Moderator since January of 2020: Rev. Glenn Kennedy (AL), Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva), Rev. Deb Grohman (Ontario Center, First), and Elder Jeff Richards (Elmira, North). The Stated Clerk also reminded the Presbytery that all donations collected during the meeting would be going to support the Pastor's Emergency Fund. She thanked the people who donated the lunch that the Presbytery would enjoy later in the day.

A MOMENT TO GRIEVE

Rev. Leah Ntuala led The Presbytery of Geneva in a moment to confess our grief, recognizing the sins and sufferings of the world, responding with "May we reach out in honesty and love."

Members of the Presbytery used markers to write their confessions/grievs on coffee filters, then sprayed them with water (remembering our baptism). The coffee filters were collected so that Rev. Ntuala could transform them into butterflies during the service to display in the front of the meeting space.

CALL TO WORSHIP

The Presbytery of Geneva enjoined together in the Call to Worship and an Affirmation of Hope, led by the Rev. Leah Ntuala.

COMMITTEE ON CAMP WHITMAN

Rev. Colin Pritchard (Geneva) and the Camp Director, Elder Lea Kone (Genesee Valley Presbytery), presented the report.

Camp Whitman is a living testimony of resurrection – proof that there is new life after uncertainty. The camp has renovated cabins, repainted buildings, new water systems, and more.

Like the Church, camp isn't the same as it was in the 1990s. But, in many ways, it is better: Camp Whitman is now serving a wider variety of people and groups all throughout the year (not just in the Summer). During the Covid lockdown, the camp was only able to host families – now, Camp Whitman is hosting retreats, other smaller camps, meetings, and more (in addition to the traditional camping programming during the summer).

Three PKs (preachers' kids) will be serving as counselors this year. Also, Emily Harris (from Pittsburgh Theological Seminary) will be serving as a chaplain. There is still a need for one other kitchen staff member, and there are a few camper spots still available.

Lea Kone acknowledged and gave thanks for:

- former camp directors, Rev. Sam Edwards (HR), Rev. Bob Rochelle (HR), and Rev. Tom Montgomery (HR)
- the First Presbyterian Church of Sodus, which sends the most campers to Camp Whitman each year
- the Weston Presbyterian Church, which makes the largest annual donation to Camp Whitman
- the First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan, which has funded important studies
- Dr. Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First), for serving as Camp Physician
- those who have volunteered to be camp chaplains
- the Presbyterian Women of Geneva Presbytery, who planted flowers
- the First Presbyterian Church of Hammondsport, for setting up a \$50,000 endowment for camp scholarships
- churches that remain in our hearts (Lake Street Presbyterian of Elmira, Westminster of Elmira, and Romulus) that made donations to Camp Whitman as part of their legacy

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH HAMMONDSPORT: SALE AND DISSOLUTION

CRE Bob Sell (Horseheads, First), COM-appointed Moderator of the First Presbyterian Church of Hammondsport, presented the motion. Following discussion, the Presbytery VOTED to:

- **approve** the following actions and recommendations, as moved by the Session and Congregation of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport, with the concurrence of the Committee on Operations (acting as the Trustees of the Presbytery of Geneva) and the General Council of the Presbytery of Geneva:
 1. **Approve** the sale of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport property to Wellspring Fellowship for \$1. **Authorize and direct** the Session of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport to take all actions useful and necessary to close the transaction on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva and the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport.
 2. **Concur** with the congregation's vote to **dissolve** the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport, effective the date of the closing day of the property sale or as soon thereafter as practicable.
 3. **Recommend** that any remaining funds from church accounts after the sale be distributed based on the recommendations of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport as follows : Presbytery of Geneva Reserve Funds (50%), Presbyterian Disaster Assistance (50%)
 4. **Concur** with the Session to **conduct** a worship celebration of the ministry of the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport Presbyterian Church on Saturday, June 17, 2023 at 2PM to be held at the First Presbyterian Church Hammondsport.

Rev. Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship) led the Presbytery of Geneva in a prayer for the Hammondsport congregation, the building, the Wellspring Fellowship that will be using that space, and for the Hammondsport community.

FINAL REPORT OF THE AC FOR THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF ATLANTA

Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell, United), chair of the Atlanta AC, and Elder Lynn Dinehart (Prattsburgh, First), clerk of the Atlanta AC, presented the report.

A Brief History of The Atlanta Presbyterian Church

Main source: materials from the celebration of the church's history 1894-1955 & 1955 -1960 celebration, congregation members and historical artifacts.

The Church is located on 1.4 acres and is a two-story Queen Anne style church building constructed of red pressed brick over a limestone basement, with a bell tower ("Church Building"), containing 4,720 gross square feet, built in 1895, and utilized as a house of worship. Also on the property is a single-story building containing 2,016 square feet, originally built and used as a stable/hitch house and later as a fellowship and meeting hall ("Wilson Hall"), collectively the "Church Property". The sanctuary has raised floors and will seat about 250 people. There is a large hall/basement that was dug out and built in 1957 where many functions, dinners and meetings were held over the years. Over the years there were many individuals that spent a lot of time, talent and money to build, renovate and keep the church beautiful. They wove their personality, influence and faith into the permanent heritage of the community.

"How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord, Is laid for your faith in His excellent word."

The congregation sang in September 1895 as they lay the cornerstone of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church. The date of July 22, 1894 was the official date the Atlanta Presbyterian Church was organized and started. If you can imagine the town of Atlanta was a thriving village in 1850!

The first pastor of the new church was Rev. Thomas Kerr, a student from Auburn, NY. The church had a Sunday School and served the community in many capacities. The women were very active in fund raising and programs. In 1926 Rev. J.T.M Wilson worked with the young people and Boy Scouts and he transformed the old hitch house in the rear of the church into a Scout Hall. In 1929 it officially became Wilson Hall, and still remains today.

Land next to the church was donated and a house was purchased and moved to this land to serve as the parsonage. The parsonage was home to many pastors and their families over the years. Once it was no longer needed as a parsonage, the house was sold.

The church building has been added to and improved upon during its nearly 125 years as a house of worship. Additions included a basement/hall and kitchen from which many community meals have been prepared and served.

The church has joined with other area churches in shared ministry throughout its history. There was a yoke between Cohocton and Atlanta churches at one time.

The Atlanta Church was known for it's work in the community and hosted dinners, baptisms, weddings and funerals. It has been a vital part of the community for over 125 years. It's final treasurer and many elders were members of the Bidwell family of Atlanta.

Other mission projects of the church have included ten cent suppers, church fairs, Two cents a meal program and many special offerings to assist the local community and Presbytery.

Summary of the work of the Administrative Commission (AC)

In accordance with the Charge approved at the October 26, 2021 regular meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, the following work has been completed.

Duly called AC meetings were held monthly via zoom in 2021,2022, 2023 to discuss the future of the church, the role of the Administrative Commission (AC) and facilitate the sale of the church and to identify a way to revitalize this place of worship so it will continue it's mission in the community and provide new life to a congregation and house of worship.

At the congregational meeting held on 9-28-2021 options for the future of the church were discussed along with the role of the AC and the steps that would be involved in closing the church. Those present reluctantly agreed that closure would be the likely outcome and set a date to start an inventory of the contents of the church and discuss which items should be returned to families who donated them, offered to other churches, or donated to the Atlanta Historical Society, Fire department and other community resources. Members of the AC met at the Atlanta Church to complete an inventory list, secure session minutes and identify items to be donated.

At the September 28, 2022 AC meeting the following recommendations of the AC were approved unanimously by the members present:

- That the Atlanta Presbyterian Church and its corporation be dissolved;
- That a final worship service with possibly a historical element be offered to the congregation and community before the final sale of the church if so desired by the congregation;
- Debts and other obligations of the church, if any, be satisfied;
- The contents of the church be donated, sold or disposed of as the AC determines after discussion with the congregation, giving first priority to returning items donated by members to their family;
- The church real property be transferred to the Presbytery of Geneva and offered for sale;
- The corporation be dissolved, as soon as the way is clear.
- Ensure the sale of the Church was congruent with the desires of the congregation I.E to be used for a house of worship first and foremost. To be a vital element to the community.

The congregation also unanimously

- Authorized the AC to take any further actions on the Congregation's behalf necessary or advisable to complete the disposition of property and the dissolution of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church and Corporation.
- Recommended to the Presbytery of Geneva that funds from the sale of the church's real estate and any other funds transferred from the Atlanta Presbyterian Church to the Presbytery of Geneva be donated in the following way: N. Cohocton Methodist Church, Presbyterian Church of Cohocton, Vincent House, American Legion and Lyons Club.

Note: Although the congregation voted to transfer the church property to the Presbytery of Geneva and then be sold, the property was sold before it had to be transferred to the Presbytery of Geneva.

Arrange for the pastoral care of church members:

The Rev. Katherine Griffis offered to serve the congregation as temporary supply pastor during the months of discussion about dissolution of the church (September 2021– May 2023).

Working as the session, in September 2021 the AC informed all members that the congregation had voted to dissolve the church and invited them to contact the AC if they would like their membership transferred to another church.

A review of the active members was done and remaining active members were informed that their membership would be held by the Presbytery of Geneva if no instructions were received about transfer. Names and contact information for individuals who were still members at the time of the dissolution have been sent to the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery.

A final worship service celebrating the life and ministry of the congregation was offered and declined by the existing members of the Atlanta Congregation.

Financial status and management of financial assets and obligations

Financial assets: At the establishment of the AC (9/2021), the church's assets included:

Bank checking account	\$ 21,239.85- January 2023
Operating Expense	\$10,970.12
Building and land	

A financial review of the Treasurer's books for 2021 found no issues of concern. There were no outstanding debts or obligations at that time or at the closing of accounts. There were no bequest stipulations on any accounts. The books were certified and balanced with bank statement on July 27th, 2022. Shirley Bidlack continued to serve as church treasurer until the property was sold, all bills paid, and the church bank account was closed.

A public notice about the upcoming closure of the church was published.

The church bank account will be closed upon completion of the filed petition, payment for legal fees due, and distribution of funds to several recipients to include the N. Cohocton Methodist Church, The Presbyterian Church of Cohocton, the Vincent House located in Wayland, NY, the American Legion and the Lyons Club. Any misc. funds to be sent to presbytery. Items from the hall, kitchen and sanctuary were left for the new Church purchasing the building.

Selling the church building and property: The AC identified a group that was looking for a church property to expand their worship and congregation. The AC utilized the Presbytery legal team (Steinbrenner Law Offices, LLC), to complete the property real estate search, court filing and sale of the property with the agreement that the new congregation coming in is responsible for all closing costs.

Steinbrenner Law Offices, LLC, of Rochester, NY served as our attorney for the sale of the church property.

Following approval by the Administrative Commission, the Presbytery of Geneva and the Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Steuben, the real property of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church was sold to the November 4, 2022 for a sale price of \$1.00 (November 2022 closing).

Dissolution of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church

Following approval by the Administrative Commission (October 2022), AC representatives signed the verified petition to the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Steuben to dissolve the corporation of the church.

The Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Steuben dissolved the Atlanta Presbyterian Church (August, 2022).

Respectfully submitted,

The Administrative Commission of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church

TE Katherine Griffis (chair); RE Lynn Dinehart (Clerk), intermittently; TE David Ashby; RE Bob Bidlack; RE Catherine Foerster.

Elder Bob Bidlack (Atlanta) shared his gratitude that the church building has a new life.

The Presbytery VOTED to **receive** the Final Report of the Administrative Commission of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church and **approve** the dissolution of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church, effective August, 2022.

The Presbytery engaged in a Service of Thanksgiving for the Ministry and Witness of the Atlanta Presbyterian Church.

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS

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

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE - REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY, May 23, 2023 From the committee's meetings of April and May, 2023

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION None

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

1. Financial reports will be provided by the Treasurer. Our annual audit is underway.
2. The Committee on Operations, acting in their role as the Trustees of the Presbytery of Geneva, concurs with the request by the Hammondsport First Presbyterian Church to sell their church building to the Wellspring Fellowship for \$1, with First Presbyterian Church's share of costs paid by First Presbyterian Church; they concur with their request to dissolve the First Presbyterian Church corporation as soon after the sale as is practical and to have a closing worship celebrating their ministry. The proceeds of the sale and other church funds will be disbursed by the Session before dissolution to various causes.
3. From: Caitlin McConville <cmm@communityfund.org>
Subject: Westminster Presbyterian Church Scholarship Recipient 2023
Date: May 1, 2023 at 11:04:24 AM EDT

Good morning,

Thank you for allowing the Community Foundation to Administer the Westminster Presbyterian Church Scholarship Award. Joshua Goetz has been selected as the 2023 winner and he will receive \$1600 to support his education at Keuka College. Joshua works full time for his lawn care business, supports 4 young children, and is the assistant coach for the High School Football and Cal Ripken Youth Baseball teams in our area.

Joshua will continue his studies in Social work at Keuka college next semester.

Thank you for supporting students in our region. Please reach out if you have any questions,

Katie McConville, Community Foundation of Elmira-Corning and the Finger Lakes, Inc.

WORSHIP AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Presbytery of Geneva engaged in a service of worship, led by Rev. Anita Milne (Waterloo, First), Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First), and Rev. Amy Loving Austin (Seneca #9 & Bellona, Memorial). Music was provided by Rev. Colin Pritchard (Geneva). Rev. Milne led the Presbytery in lectio divina, with the Presbytery writing words that they heard in the readings on strips of paper (later made into a paper chain). Rev. Ntuala and Rev. Loving Austin presided over the celebration of the Lord's Supper (in person and online).

The Presbytery adjourned for lunch at 12:00pm.

The Presbytery reconvened at 1:00pm, called to order by the Moderator.

COMMITTEE ON VITALITY

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

- The committee is still collecting stories from around the Presbytery of people sharing their faith stories. Those who need technical assistance with recording these testimonies are encouraged to reach out to Rev. Ntuala or other members of the Vitality Committee for assistance.
- The committee is also compiling a "database" of gifts / skills / specialized training that members of the Presbytery have and are willing to share.
- Congregations are encouraged to share information about events and fundraisers with the committee and with the Presbytery.

The committee shared pictures and a video of the Palm Sunday Parade held each year at the First Presbyterian Church of Cohocton.

THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

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

RE Newell introduced committee member Rev Paul Rack (HR), who shared a report on the recent Board of Pensions (BOP) conference. The BOP is entering a "season of rebuilding". Minister members and congregations are encouraged to visit the website for more information:

<https://seasonofrebuilding.pensions.org/news/report-season-rebuilding>.

RE Cathy Foerster (Penn Yan, First), co-chair of the COM, introduced Candidate Michelle Serra (Hornell, United) to be examined for ordination. The Presbytery proceeded to the examination. Following the examination, a motion was made and seconded, and the Presbytery VOTED to **sustain** the examination.

Candidate Serra was escorted out of the room while the Presbytery deliberated.

The Presbytery VOTED to:

- **approve** Michelle Serra (Hornell, United) for Ordination to the Ordered Ministry of Minister of Word and Sacrament.
- **approve** the following Administrative Commission to Ordain Michelle Serra to the Ordered Ministry of Minister of Word and Sacrament on Saturday, July 8, 2023, at 2:00 pm at the First Presbyterian Church of Canisteo:
 - RE Jeffrey Richards, Moderator (Elmira North)
 - TE Rev. Bruce Incze (Arkport)
 - TE Rev. Katherine Griffis (Hornell, United)
 - RE Lisa Sanford (Hornell, United)
 - RE Elaine Pierce (Canisteo)
 - TE Aaron Frank (Horseheads);
- to **approve** the Celebration of the Lord's Supper at this service of Ordination;
- to **grant** the moderator or his designee the authority to make any necessary and appropriate changes to the Administrative Commission to Ordain;
- and to **dismiss** the Administrative Commission with thanks, upon the completion of the Service of Ordination.

Candidate Serra was welcomed back into the room with applause, and the Moderator led the Presbytery in prayer for Candidate Serra and her ministry.

RE Cathy Foerster presented items 7 and 8 from the Consent Agenda for consideration.

Following conversation, the Presbytery VOTED to:

- **Approve** the the following recommendations from the CPM Planning Group:
 - a. Move the CPM work out of COM and create a new CPM committee to do that work. The CPM work includes the preparation for ministry of teaching elders, commissioned lay/ruling elders
 - b. Have COM retain responsibility for CREs after they are trained and are deemed ready for commissioning to service to a particular congregation or to the needs of the presbytery.
 - c. The new CPM should initially consist of 3 members, in three classes. Regular terms are for 3 years, renewable once.
 - d. The new CPM chair, or other delegated member, shall attend Presbytery Council meetings at least three times throughout the year to provide updates on CPM activities and whenever CPM business is on the agenda; the CPM member shall have a vote at Council on any CPM business.
 - e. The new CPM should include in its work:
 - i. Determining how it is to be organized to conduct its work, including whether liaisons always need to be current committee members.
 - ii. Reviewing and recommending changes to The Committee on Preparation for Ministry Operations Manual for Teaching Elders / Ministers of Word & Sacrament.
 - iii. Reviewing and recommending changes to the Commissioned Ruling Elder Formation Program
 - iv. Continuing to explore collaboration with the CPMs of our neighboring presbyteries.
 - v. After one year, making a recommendation to the Presbytery (through the General Council) on whether the number of members on CPM should be increased.
 - vi. Meeting a minimum of four times a year for planning and training, even if there are no Inquirers, Candidates, or CRE candidates.
 - f. Move responsibility for nominating ordination exam readers to the Committee on Representation. This will encourage broader participation, and the current process of having the COM recommend nominees to CoR does not work well, because the names of exam readers are due to OGA by August 31, and the Presbytery often doesn't meet in the summer.
 - g. Complete the transfer of the CPM work from COM to the new CPM as soon as possible after approval by the Presbytery.
- **Approve** the following changes to the Manual of Administrative Operations (see document 2c CPM Planning Group Report and Recommendations for rationale):
 - a. Add a new standing committee to Section VII:

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

There shall be a Committee on Preparation for Ministry whose purpose is to oversee guidance and mandates of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding preparation for ministers of Word and Sacrament, preparation of ruling elders to become commissioned pastors, and certification of Christian educators.

Membership: 3 members, with both Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (3-year terms, renewable once). The Committee shall meet at least quarterly.

Role on Council: The Committee on Preparation for Ministry chair, or other delegated Committee member, shall attend Presbytery Council meetings at least three times throughout the year to provide updates on Committee activities and whenever Committee business is on the agenda; the Committee member shall have a vote at Council on any Committee on Preparation for Ministry business.

Responsibilities:

- Guide, nurture and oversee the process of becoming a teaching elder, commissioned ruling elder or certified Christian educator, following the process and procedures as outlined in the Constitution of the PC(U.S.A.)
 - To have the authority to dismiss candidates to another presbytery or denomination for examination and/or for ordination, with the provision that all such actions be reported to the next stated meeting of the presbytery.
 - Prepare, maintain, and implement a training, and examination process for ruling elders when the presbytery's strategy for mission requires the need for commissioning to serve congregations and the needs of the presbytery.
 - In consultation with the Committee on Representation, nominate persons to serve as ordination examination readers.
- b. Amend the third bullet of responsibilities of the Committee on Representation as follows:
- Consult with the CPM to assist their nominating persons as ordination examination readers ~~as recommended by the Committee on Ministry.~~
- c. Amend the first paragraph of the Committee on Ministry section as follows:
There shall be a Committee on Ministry whose purpose is to oversee guidance and mandates of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) regarding ordered ministry including oversight of pastoral transitions, ~~preparation for ministry of Word and Sacrament, preparation and commissioning and supervision of commissioned ruling elders, and certification of Christian educators;~~ and to promote healthy responses to conflict within congregations.
- d. Amend the 10th bullet under Ordered Ministry responsibilities, of the Committee on Ministry section as follows:
- Recommend to the presbytery, oversee, and supervise commissioned ruling elders called to pastoral service in congregations and to the needs of the Presbytery.
- e. Delete the entire Preparations section of the Committee on Ministry responsibilities.

Actions Taken On Behalf Of The Presbytery by COM

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Authorize on behalf of the Presbytery Ruling Elders Victoria Bolton and Michael Allen to preside over and administer communion at First Presbyterian Church of Cohocton at the direction of the session.
- Authorize on behalf of the Presbytery Ruling Elder Anne Rogers to preside over and administer communion at Park Presbyterian Church, Newark, at the direction of the session.
- Approve the request of Rev. Robin E. Lostetter to be added to the pulpit supply list.
- Approve the MIF for an Interim Pastor for the United Presbyterian Church in Hornell, NY, and allow them to move forward with the search process.
- Authorize on behalf of the Presbytery Ruling Elders William Howles and Vera Dykes to preside over and administer communion at Weston Presbyterian Church at the direction of the session.
- Authorize on behalf of the Presbytery Ruling Elder Patti Smith to preside over and administer communion at the First Presbyterian Church of Watkins Glen at the direction of the session.
- Approve the appointment of Rev. Bruce Incze as moderator of the session and congregation of the United Presbyterian Church, Hornell, effective June 1, 2023.
- Approve the appointment of Ruling Elder James Varner as moderator of the session and congregation of the Howard Union Presbyterian Church, effective June 1, 2023.
- Approve removing Rev. Val Fowler from the pulpit supply list, at his request.
- Approve the appointment of Rev. Jane Winters as moderator of the session and the congregation of the First Presbyterian Church of Canisteo, effective June 1, 2023 until the ordination of Michelle Serra.
- Approve on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva the Agreement for Dissolution and Termination of Pastoral Relationship between the Rev. Katherine Griffis and the United Presbyterian Church, Hornell, NY, effective May 31, 2023, pending congregational approval.
- Approve the request for waiver to term limits from the First Presbyterian Church of Cohocton for Ruling Elders Barbara Goodrich and Linda Hodges to serve additional 3 year terms on Session, according to the provisions of the Book of Order, G-2.0404.

COM Items For The Presbytery's Information

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for First Presbyterian Church of Arkport and Rev. Bruce Incze.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats and Rev. Denise Stone.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for Christ the King Fellowship of Spencer Presbyterian Church and Rev. Sabrina Slater.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for Corning First Presbyterian Church and Rev. Jeffrey Ugoretz.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads and Rev. Aaron Frank.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for the North Presbyterian Church of Elmira and Rev. Evan Hansen.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses and Rev. Susan Joseph Rack.
- Approve the Covenant for Temporary Supply Pastor between the CRE Richard Evans and the Burdett Presbyterian Church for 2023 with waiver on including study leave allowance. This covenant is effective January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023 (¼ time) at the following terms:
 - Cash Salary: \$ 4,662
 - Housing Allowance: 8,743
 - SECA offset: 5,228
 - Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate
 - Study Leave: \$ 250
 - Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
 - Vacation Time: 4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
- Receive and accept the clearance interview of a pastor candidate conducted by Beth and Paul.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls and Rev. Leah Ntuala.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for the Ovid Federated Church and Rev. John Robert Mellgard.
- Receive and Approve the updated 2023 Terms of Call for the First Presbyterian Church of Penn Yan and Rev. Paul Malles.
- Approve “Section 6 – Other Matters for Teaching Elders” in the COM Guidebook.
- Approve the Covenant for Services as a Covenanted Pastor between the United Church of Painted Post and Rev. David Preisendanz. This covenant is effective May 1, 2023 - April 30, 2024 (full time) at the following terms:
 - Cash Salary: \$ 44,959
 - Housing Allowance: 20,500
 - Board of Pensions: 22,528
 - Travel Allowance: all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate
 - Study Leave: \$ 1,000
 - Professional Exp: 625
 - Study Leave Time: 2 weeks including 2 Sundays
 - Vacation Time: 4 weeks (31 days), including 4 Sundays, plus 2 additional Sundays
- Approve the Covenant for Services as a Covenanted Pastor between First Presbyterian Church, Canisteo and (upon her ordination) Rev. Michelle Serra, including appointing her as moderator of the session and the congregation. This covenant is effective upon her ordination at the following terms (half-time):
 - Salary \$ 13,805
 - Housing \$ 20,000
 - SECA offset \$ 2,586
 - BOP \$ 13,184
 - 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

BILLS AND OVERTURES TASK GROUP

TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) presented the Amendments to be considered by the Presbytery for approval, including amendment 22-CC, which had been pulled (item 4j) from the Consent Agenda..

Following discussion on each item, the Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to:

- **approve** amendment 22-CC [D-3.0106 WHEN JURISDICTION ENDS - Allows a disciplinary process to continue after an accused has renounced jurisdiction (Note: *This change to the Book of Order will only be effective, if and only if, 22-G – Church Discipline Section is not approved by the presbyteries.*)]
- **approve** amendment 22-I [G-2.0804 TERMS OF CALL - Adds the requirement of a minimum of twelve weeks of paid family leave in terms of call for all installed pastors/associate pastors.]
- **approve** amendment 22-S [G-4.0301 TRUST AND CONFIDENTIALITY - Expands and clarifies “confidentiality” requirements for ministers and commissioned pastors.

- **approve** amendment 22-GG [REPLACING THE CURRENT “RULES OF DISCIPLINE” WITH A NEW “CHURCH DISCIPLINE” SECTION (ROD-03) - A proposed complete revision of the Rules of Discipline, with a new “Church Discipline” section of the Book of Order.

COMMITTEE ON LEADER CARE

Rev. Bruce Incze, chair of the Committee on Leader Care, presented the report.

- Rev. Incze thanked the Presbytery for their donations to the Pastors’ Emergency Fund collected during the meeting. [The total collected was \$388.]
- Honorably Retired minister members are encouraged to participate in an upcoming HR event.

Rev. Incze presented a farewell and thank you gift to Rev. Katherine Griffis, soon to be Honorably Retired and moving from Geneva Presbytery. Her ministry and leadership in the Presbytery has been deeply appreciated, and she will be missed.

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Rev. Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King), member of the Committee on Representation, presented the report.

- Rev. Slater introduced RE Beth Newell (Geneva), who shared her testimony of serving on the CPM and COM. Rev. Slater thanked RE Newell with 100 Grand (a candy bar) and a candle (representing the light of Christ).
- The work of the Presbytery is possible because people answer the call to serve. There is a great blessing in serving; so let us be those who extend the invitation to serve, and let us be those who serve.

GOOD NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONS

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

- From Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra: Mission Team did worship in May to highlight what we are doing in Palmyra-Macedon, Wayne County, and around the world. Mann, many comments of all we are doing.

A WORD FROM THE PRESBYTERY LEADER

Rev. Marjorie Ackerman, Presbytery Leader, shared that there will be more Lifelines Workshops coming in the Fall – many inspired by comments and conversations from workshops held earlier this year. She also noted that there was a Prayer Table located in the meeting space where people could share specific prayer requests that will then be held in prayer by the Presbytery Leader.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

Rev. Deb Grohman (Ontario Center, First) offered the Resolution of Thanks.

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

Rev. Colin Pritchard led the Presbytery in a closing song.

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 2:27pm.

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

Additional Written Reports Provided to the Presbytery on May 23, 2023

**GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY
May 23, 2023 -- Camp Whitman & Zoom.us
[From the meetings of 04/18/2023 and 05/09/2023]**

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION: None

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

(First Presbyterian Church Hammondspport)

The General Council VOTED to *concur* with the request by the Hammondspport First Presbyterian Church to sell their church building to the Wellspring Fellowship for \$1, with First Presbyterian Church's share of costs paid by First Presbyterian Church; *concur* with their request to dissolve the First Presbyterian Church corporation as soon after the sale as is practical and to have a closing worship celebrating their ministry; the proceeds of the sale and other church funds will be disbursed by the Session before dissolution to various causes. The exact terms of the action for Presbytery will be provided by their Session following their congregational meeting and before the Presbytery's May 23, 2023 meeting.

(Committee on Preparation for Ministry)

The General Council VOTED to recommend the Presbytery approve the recommendations presented by the CPM Task Group, including the proposed changes to the Manual of Operations.

The General Council VOTED to direct the Committee on Representation to nominate three persons to serve on the CPM. TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) and TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva) have volunteered to serve.

A Note from the Presbytery Leader

Hello Everyone and a Happy Springtime to Each of You!

As sunshine bursts forth from the sky and temperatures continue to rise, beautiful spring days slowly give way to the coming summertime adventures. I applaud our amazing committee members for keeping their focus and getting so much work done as the beautiful weather beckons us all to enjoy the outdoor splendor.

As you probably know, the *Lifelines* workshops are well underway and have opened the door to some fantastic conversations with our churches. A very special 'thank-you' to all of our host congregations for their hospitality and to all of the participants who made these discussions possible. For those of you who have not had a chance to participate yet, there are two workshops left in this series that will focus on possible futures of our congregations. If you haven't already registered, please be sure to do so as soon as possible: we will be meeting in Sodus on Wednesday, May 24th and in Horseheads on Saturday, June 3rd. Additional information can be found on the presbytery website (www.presbyteryofgeneva.org).

Just a quick reminder to those congregations who change their worship times during the summer months: please check the church directory on the presbytery website to make sure the time change is noted there. I'll be continuing to visit congregations throughout the summer and want to make sure the information is correct so I don't miss out on the opportunity to worship together. If there are any updates needed, please reach out to any staff member so we can make those changes.

As we embark on our summer adventures, please keep an eye on the presbytery newsletters for announcements about additional programming coming this fall. Thanks again to all those who have shared their ideas and offered host facilities for future workshops – we hope you will participate!

May God continue to bless our ministry efforts as we all make time to relax and enjoy the changing seasons in our gorgeous presbytery.

In Service to Christ,
Marji Ackerman, Presbytery Leader

Matthew 25 2023 Grants Awarded

Canandaigua, United Church	
Called to Care, Canandaigua	\$2,000.00
CCIA Housing & Rental Assistance	\$1,500.00
Neighbor to Neighbor Fund	\$1,000.00
Elmira, First Presbyterian Church	
Habitat for Humanity/Home Build	\$4,000.00
Potter's Hands Foundation	\$3,000.00
Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand	\$1,500.00
Geneva, The Presbyterian Church	
Geneva Community Lunch	\$3,000.00
Geneva Center of Concern	\$4,000.00
Family Promise of Ontario County	\$4,000.00
First 1,000 Days/Boys and Girls Club	\$3,000.00
First 1,000 Days/WIC Book Deliveries	\$3,000.00
Hornell, United Church	
Respecting & Serving Our Elders	\$4,000.00
Sunday Meals Program	\$3,000.00
Emergency Pantry Project	\$1,600.00
Horseheads, First Presbyterian Church	
Meals on Wheels/Chemung County	\$1,000.00
Horseheads Food Pantry	\$1,500.00
Ithaca, First Presbyterian Church	
Ithaca Welcomes Refugees	\$4,000.00
Sunflower Houses & Wrap Around...	\$1,140.00
Mission Trip Program	\$1,500.00
Lyons, First Presbyterian Church	
Lyons Community Victory Garden	\$1,400.00
Newark, Park Presbyterian Church	
Newark Food Closet	\$3,000.00
Painted Post, United Church	
Painted Post Food Pantry, Inc.	\$1,500.00
Palmyra, Western Presbyterian Church	
Good Neighbor Fund	\$3,000.00
Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship	
Meals for Spencer/VanEtten	\$2,500.00
Trumansburg, First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses	
Trumansburg Food Pantry	\$2,000.00
Watkins Glen, First Presbyterian Church	
Community Dinner	\$2,000.00