

**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 conducted a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, November 28, 2023, 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**

RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) Moderator, called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm, a quorum being present.  
The Moderator offered the opening prayer.

**ROLL**

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

CONGREGATION	MINISTER(S)	COMMISSIONER	CONGREGATION	MINISTER(S)	COMMISSIONER
ADDISON	A - Peter Marr (CM)		MARION, UNITED	A - Denise Logan (CM)	Frank Halstead
ANDOVER, FIRST	A - C. Mattison (CM)		MORELAND	A - Paul Yoder (CRE)	
ARKPORT, FIRST	A - 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)	A - Kathy Swan	OAKS CORNERS	A - Karl Warrington	
BELLONA, MEMORIAL	Amy Loving Austin	EX - Jane Hansen	ONTARIO CENTER, FIRST	Deborah Grohman	
BIG FLATS, FIRST	Denise Stone	A - Robin Fitzgerald	OVID, FEDERATED	Rob Mellgard	Judy Mellgard
BURDETT	A - Richard Evans (CRE)	A - Martha Evans	PAINTED POST, UNITED	EX - David Preisendanz	A - Hank Jonas
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	A - Wade Allen (CM)	Linda Werts	PALMYRA, WESTERN	Hodong Hwang	Philip Opdycke
CANISTEO, FIRST	EX - Michelle Serra		PENN YAN, FIRST	Paul Malles	Rob Anderson
COHOCTON, FIRST	-----	A - Linda Hodges	PHELPS, UNITED	EX - H. Leigh Holder	Peg Carlson
CORNING, FIRST	Jeffrey Ugoretz	Kay Rogus	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	-----	EX - Lynn Dinehart
EAST PALMYRA, FIRST	-----	A - Judith Langdon	PULTENEY, FIRST	-----	Mary Jane Peek
ELMIRA, FIRST	A - Lynn Rubier-Capron	Alida Schamel	RED CREEK		EX - Virginia Kachurak
ELMIRA, NORTH	Evan Hansen	A - Annie LeFevre	ROCK STREAM		Diana Smith
GENEVA, THE PC	Colin Pritchard	Chris Gerling	SENECA #9	Amy Loving Austin	Pam Ellis
	-----	-----	SENECA FALLS, FIRST	Leah Ntuala	Susan Sholar
HECTOR	Daniel Russell	A - Charles Knight	SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	
HORNELL, UNITED	Jonathan Barker (CM)	Lisa Sanford	SODUS, FIRST	Gail Heimberger	A - Keith Blackall

<b>HORSEHEADS, FIRST</b>	Aaron Frank	Lori Ann Congdon	<b>SPENCER, CHRIST THE KING FELLOWSHIP</b>	Sabrina Slater	<b>A - Gail Maureen</b>
<b>HOWARD, UNION</b>	-----		<b>TRUMANSBURG, FIRST ULYSSES</b>	Susan Joseph Rack	Pamela Postle
<b>HURON</b>	<b>A - Nancy Farrell</b>	Linda Hayes	<b>WATERLOO, FIRST</b>	Anita Milne	<b>A - George Bassett</b>
<b>ITHACA, FIRST</b>	Cynthia Weaver Kirianne Weaver	Brad McFall	<b>WATKINS GLEN, FIRST</b>	Cara Milne	Karen Rhodes
<b>JASPER, UNITED</b>	<b>A - Brain Dieffenbacher (CM)</b>		<b>WESTON</b>	-----	Barry Winters
<b>JUNIUS</b>	-----	Kristi Ward	<b>WOLCOTT, FIRST</b>	<b>A - Walter Stuber (CM)</b>	Dolores Gingerich
<b>LYONS, FIRST</b>	-----	Joanne Reinhardt			

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

**Present:** John Milne (HR) Paul Rack (HR) David Ashby (AL)  
Jane Winters (HR) James Hicks (HR) J. Christy Wareham (AL)  
Robin Lostetter (HR) Jim Gerling (HR) James Kerr (HR)

**Excused:** Marjorie Ackerman (VM) Betsey Crimmins (HR) Ellen Donnan (HR)  
Robert Rochelle (HR) Adrian Tierson (VM) Sam Edwards (HR)  
Philip Courtney (HR) Thomas Montgomery (HR) David Barnard (HR)  
Susan Husted (HR) Glenn Kennedy (AL) Beverly Karr Lyon (HR)  
Cynthia Huling Hummel (HR)

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

Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) MODERATOR	Tom Bailey (Spencer) TREASURER		<b>A - Paul Yoder (Horseheads, First) CRE (Moreland)</b>
Pricilla Andrews (Rock Stream) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	<b>A - Richard Evans (Watkins Glen, First) CRE (Burdett)</b>	<b>EX - Bob Sell (Horseheads, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)</b>	John Gingerich (Wolcott, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)
Carleen Frost (Sodus, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	<b>A - Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta) CRE (Pulpit Supply)</b>	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)**

Luke Choi (BOP Church Consultant) Virginia Champlin (Geneva)

<b>SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2023</b>	<b>Jan 28</b>	<b>Mar 28</b>	<b>May 23</b>	<b>Aug 15</b>	<b>Sept 26</b>	<b>Nov 28</b>	
<b>Total Minister Commissioners Present*</b>	23	30	31	22	29	29	
<b>Total Elder Commissioners Present **</b>	38	33	30	19	25	34	
<b>Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)</b>	+15	+3	-1	-3	-4	+5	
<b>Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***</b>	3	8	1	1	6	4	

<b>Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders****</b>	24	28	32	37	32	26	
<b>Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders and Pastors****</b>	15	17	19	27	19	15	
<b>Total Registered Visitors and Staff</b>	7	5	10	2	2	4	
<b>Total Registered Attendance*****</b>	69	68	72	44	58	69	
<b>In Person (IP) / Virtual (V) Attendance Totals</b>	0 IP 69 V	0 IP 68 V	60 IP 12 V	0 IP 44 V	27 IP 31 V	0 IP 69 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:

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
	Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests
5:15 PM	Consent Agenda
5:20 PM	Board of Pensions Updates from our BOP Church Consultant, Rev. Luke Choi
5:35 PM	Clerk's Report [TE Amy Loving Austin (Stanley, Seneca #9 & Bellona, Memorial)]
5:40 PM	Worship and the Lord's Supper
6:15 PM	Committee on Ministry
	Commissioning of CRE Carleen Frost (Sodus, First)
6:25 PM	Committee on Vitality [TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First)]
6:30 PM	Committee on Operations [TE David Ashby (VM)]
6:35 PM	Committee on Representation
6:40 PM	A Word from the Presbytery Leader [TE Marjorie Ackerman (VM)]
6:45 PM	Save the Date: MLK Jr. Day of Service (January 15, 2024)
6:50 PM	Good News from Congregations
	* To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
7:00 PM	Installation of 2024 Moderator & Vice-Moderator
7:10 PM	Resolution of Thanks
7:15 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**

The Vice Moderator, TE Anita Milne (Waterloo, First), offered acknowledgement of the first stewards of the land where we live and serve by leading the Presbytery in portions of the Haudenosaunee Thanksgiving Address: Greetings to the Natural World. The full text of this address is available online:

[https://americanindian.si.edu/environment/pdf/01\\_02\\_Thanksgiving\\_Address.pdf](https://americanindian.si.edu/environment/pdf/01_02_Thanksgiving_Address.pdf)

### **WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS**

The Moderator welcomed new commissioners and guests.

## CONSENT AGENDA

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the September 26, 2023 stated meeting, held in person at Elmira, North and electronically 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 2024 Budget for the Presbytery's first reading, to be presented to the Presbytery for approval in January 2024. [This is not a vote to approve the budget – that vote will take place in January 2024.]
5. **Approve** the sale of the property known as Ontario Center First Presbyterian Church, 1638 Ridge Road, Ontario, NY 14519, to Kari Khun for \$155,000; and **authorize and direct** the First Presbyterian Church of Ontario Center to take all actions useful and necessary to close the transaction on behalf of the Presbytery of Geneva and the First Presbyterian Church of Ontario Center.
6. **Approve** the following addition to the Committee on Ministry Ordered Ministry responsibilities in the Presbytery Manual of Administrative Operations:  
"Implement procedures for the Presbytery of Geneva's Background Check Policy for Pastoral Leaders."
7. **Approve** the election of the following to serve on the Committee on Representation:
  - a. Class of 2026: TE Paul Malles (Penn Yan, First)
  - b. Class of 2026: TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King)
  - c. Class of 2025: RE Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First)
8. **Approve** the election of the following to serve as Presbytery Officers in 2024:
  - a. Moderator: TE Anita Milne (Waterloo, First)
  - b. Vice-Moderator: CRE Connie Franks (Ontario, First; serving Shortsville, First)
  - c. General Council Chair: RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)
  - d. Treasurer: TE David Ashby (AL)
9. **Approve** the election of the following to serve on Presbytery Committees and Boards:
  - a. *Committee on Ministry*
    - Class of 2026: TE Leigh Holder (Phelps, United)
  - b. *Committee on Leader Care*
    - Class of 2026: RE Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First)
    - Class of 2026: CRE Bob Sell (Horseheads, First)
  - c. *Committee on Camp Whitman*
    - Class of 2026: TE David Preisendanz (Painted Post, United)
    - Class of 2026: RE Marvin Pallscheck (Penn Yan, First)
  - d. *Committee on Vitality*
    - Class of 2026: TE David Barnard (HR)
    - Class of 2026: TE Hodong Hwang (Palmyra, Western)
  - e. *Committee on Mission and Witness*
    - Class of 2026: RE Joanne Tunison (Elmira, First)
    - Class of 2026: TE Lynn Rubier-Capron (Elmira, First)
  - f. *Committee on Operations*
    - Class of 2026: RE Sandy Ansley (Geneva)
    - Class of 2026: RE Phil Opdyke (Palmyra, Western)
    - Class of 2026: RE Ken Allen (Canandaigua, United)
  - g. *General Council - Members at Large*
    - Class of 2025: RE Rich Buchheimer (Elmira, First)
    - Class of 2025: TE Michelle Serra (Canisteo)
10. **Approve** the election of the following to serve as Commissioners/YAADs to the 226th General Assembly:
  - a. TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First)
  - b. [Alternate] TE Cara Milne (Watkins Glen, First)
  - c. RE Jeff Richards (Elmira North)
  - d. [Alternate] RE Jim Varner (Hornell, United)
  - e. YAAD Eliana Hansen (Elmira, North)
  - f. [Alternate YAAD] Ren Champlin (Geneva)

11. **Approve** the following imbalance correction for 2024:

Current Imbalance Report

Minister members of presbytery (as of 11/18/23)	71
Honorably Retired Minister members (traditionally excused)	35
Average ministers in attendance in 2023 (stated meetings)	28 (last year: 23)
Elder Commissioners from congregations (as of 11/18/23)	49
Add'l Elder Commissioners from large congregations (over 500)	0
Average elder commissioners from congregations in attendance in 2023 (stated meetings)	21
Average elder commissioners (congregations + additional) in attendance in 2023 (stated meetings)	31 (last year: 32)
<i>Total # of congregations (as of 11/18/23)</i>	<i>49</i>
<i>Average # of churches not represented by elder comm. in 2023</i>	<i>29 (last year: 30)</i>
<i>Average # of churches not represented by elder comm. or pastor</i>	<i>18 (last year: 19)</i>

Imbalance To Be Corrected in 2024:

**Invite** the following persons to serve as "additional elder commissioners" for calendar year 2024:

Presbytery Officers (2):

Connie Franks (Ontario Center, First) – Presbytery Vice Moderator  
Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) — General Council Chairperson

CREs in current service to church or presbytery (8):

Priscilla Andrews (Rock Stream)  
Richard Evans (Burdett)  
Carleen Frost (Sodus, First)  
Don Peek (Pulteney, First)  
Bob Sell (Horseheads, First)  
John Gingerich (Wolcott, First)  
Bessie Tyrrell (membership held by Presbytery of Geneva)  
Paul Yoder (Horseheads, First)

Committee/Council Leadership (5):

Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western) — Committee on Operations  
Beth Newell (Geneva) — Committee on Ministry  
Rich Buchheimer (Elmira, First) — At-Large RE on Council  
Linda Werts (Canandagua, United) — Committee on Mission and Witness  
Virginia Champlin (Geneva) – Presbyterian Women

TOTAL INVITATIONS = 15

**ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK**

1. 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 14, 2024. Information about completing these reports will be sent to clerks and moderators within the next few weeks. If you have any questions or need assistance with completing your report, please contact the Stated Clerk:  
[StatedClerk@PresbyteryOfGeneva.org](mailto:StatedClerk@PresbyteryOfGeneva.org)
2. Synod Grant applications are due by January 10, 2024 for:
  - a. Campus Ministry Grants <https://www.synodne.org/campus-ministry-grant-application>
  - b. Youth Leadership <https://www.synodne.org/youth-leadership-grant-application>
3. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars: <https://www.synodne.org/webinars>

4. The Administrative Commission elected by the Presbytery of Geneva for the purpose of installing Hodong Hwang as pastor of Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra, NY, met at 2:25pm on November 12, 2023 in the Mary Griffith Parlor of Western Presbyterian Church, Palmyra.

Commission Members Present were:

RE Jeffrey Richards (Elmira North), Moderator  
TE Susan Frost (Newark, Park)  
TE Colin Pritchard (Geneva)  
TE Nancy J. Farrell (HR)  
TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First)  
CRE John Gingerich (Wolcott, First)  
RE Kerm Bossard (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship)  
RE Janet Manktelow (Palmyra, Western)

There being a quorum present, the Commission was convened with prayer by Jeff Richards.

The Commission elected Nancy J. Farrell 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 TE Hodong Hwang as directed by Presbytery. The Commission moved to the sanctuary for the service of installation. The call to worship was given by Jeff Richards. The opening prayer was offered by Kerm Bossard. The sermon was delivered by Colin Pritchard. 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 Jeff Richards. The constitutional questions were asked of the congregation by Janet Manktelow. The constitutional questions having been answered in the affirmative, the Commission proceeded, by the laying on of hands, to install as pastor The Rev. Hodong Hwang. The charge to the installee was given by Susan Frost. The charge to the congregation was given by John Gingerich. The benediction/closing prayer was pronounced by Rev. Hodong Hwang. Respectfully submitted, Rev. Nancy J. Farrell, Commission Clerk.

TE Luke Choi (Board of Pensions Church Consultant) was delayed, so the Presbytery decided to move forward with other business, awaiting his arrival.

### ***THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY***

RE Beth Newell (Geneva) presented the report.

- A Background Check policy and procedures will be coming to the Presbytery for their approval in January.
- There are items available from the Junius Presbyterian Church; those interested in learning more should contact RE Beth Newell (Geneva).

The Presbytery Moderator led the Presbytery in the Commissioning Service to commission CRE Carleen Frost (Sodus, First) to serve as the Commissioned Ruling Elder for Rock Stream Presbyterian Church, beginning December 15, 2023.

### **ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY**

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

Approve the Congregational Study of the Park Presbyterian Church of Newark, NY, and approve their session to form a PNC.

Receive and approve the resignation of Rev. Cynthia O'Leary as pastor of the Rock Stream Presbyterian Church, effective October 31, 2023, which has been approved by the Session.

### **ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION**

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

Receive the 2022 Annual Review for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor from Cohocton First Presbyterian Church.

Approve the Background Checks policy.

Approve the Background Checks procedures

Approve the Covenant for Pastoral Services with a CRE between Rock Stream Presbyterian Church and CRE Carleen Frost for December 15, 2023 to August 31, 2024 (but not including April 8 to June 5 and Aug 2-11, 2024) and commission Carleen Frost to such service. This covenant is for ¼ time service at the following terms:

Salary	\$ 4,465
Housing	\$ 2,400
SECA	\$ 500
Travel	all church mileage at current IRS rate for business

Approve CRE Carleen Frost as moderator of the Rock Stream Presbyterian Church effective December 15, 2023, as provided in the Covenant for Pastoral Services with a CRE.

Approve the Covenant for Services as a Temporary Pastor (full time) between First Presbyterian Church of Bath and Rev. John Woodring for September 1, 2023 thru September 1, 2024, at the following terms:

Salary	\$23,957
Housing	\$31,000
SECA	\$ 4,204
BOP	\$21,433
Travel	all church mileage at current IRS rate for business
Study Leave	\$ 1,020
Maj. Med. Supp.	\$ 1,846
Retirement	\$ 1,200
Study Leave Time	2 weeks, including 2 Sundays
Vacation Time	31 days, including 4 Sundays

### ***THE COMMITTEE ON VITALITY***

TE Kirianne Weaver (Ithaca, First), new chairperson the Vitality Committee, presented the report - highlighting the importance of churches maintaining an active, online presence.

The Vitality Committee is asking churches to provide information about their church websites and service times. Please complete the information forms when you receive them.

### ***THE COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS***

TE David Ashby (AL) presented the report. If anyone has any questions about the proposed 2024 budget for the Presbytery, please contact the Committee on Operations before the January 2024 Presbytery meeting.

### ***THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION***

RE Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First) and TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King) presented the report.

- COR continues in conversation with many in our Presbytery as we continue discerning who God is calling to serve in what way in our Presbytery. We are excited for all those we've been able to connect with, excited for how God has been moving & preparing people when it has been time to say "yes" to serving in one way or another -- and we are excited for those who have discerned not just yet as the time to serve.
- And, as we continue reaching out & connecting with people, we so appreciate those who are also thinking of people who might be called to serve in this season. To that end (when this report was written/submitted) we stand in need of those who are open & willing to serve our Presbytery on the Committee on Ministry. There might be some other opportunities as well.
- We thank everyone who is & has shared their gifts with our Presbytery. We pray that each of y'all are blessed as you serve -- because we know there are blessings to be found in serving!
- If you are interested in serving on a Presbytery committee -- or, if you know of someone who has gifts to share that could benefit a Presbytery committee -- please contact the Committee on Representation: [representation@PresbyteryOfGeneva.org](mailto:representation@PresbyteryOfGeneva.org).
- Thank you to all who have served and who are serving! We are better together! Please share those awesome gifts that you have!

### ***A WORD FROM THE PRESBYTERY LEADER***

TE Marjorie Ackerman (VM), provided a written report:

Hello and Happy Holidays to each of you! I hope all of you were able to enjoy a wonderful Thanksgiving and are looking forward to incredible Advent and Christmas celebrations.

I'd like to thank everyone who participated in the *Bridging the Gap* workshops last month, for sharing ideas and for offering several possibilities for continuing discussion. A very special thanks to the host churches as well: Trumansburg, Newark, Hornell, and Corning – for the warm hospitality extended to each of us. You've all made these workshops a wonderful success!

An incredible 57 people from 22 churches took part in the workshops – an amazing turnout offering amazing ideas! The workshops opened with a discussion around the question, "How do we get young people to come to our church?" This is a question many of our churches have struggled with for many years. Over the course of the day's activities, perspectives shifted – and by the end of the day, each group was able to come up with several alternate questions that are much more actionable than where we started. Exploring these questions in our local communities could help lead us to more effective ministries:

1. What are the needs?
2. How do we do Christ's work in the world?
3. How do we use our energy and resources to fulfill the commands of Jesus?
4. Where do teenagers find spiritual community?
5. How do we communicate with the surrounding community to identify their needs?
6. What are other ways to consider wealth?
7. How does the church address the loneliness epidemic?
8. How do we become more relevant?
9. How do we make God more relevant?
10. Where/How are the 'nones & dones' finding God?
11. Where do you find your spirituality?
12. What does it mean to share the good news?
13. How can we use this church to help people?
14. How do we connect with those outside the church? How do we talk with them to find what they're looking for?
15. Who needs the good news and how do we reach them?
16. Why not more emphasis on prayer?
17. How do we help those having a hard time with change?
18. What's the right physical size/space?
19. How do we better serve our community?
20. How do we move forward with what we have?
21. How do we strengthen the faith of our folks to be more effective in the world?
22. What can we do now that will have impact on the spiritual well-being of others?
23. How do we spend our money?
24. What are God's plans for our church?
25. How do we embrace technology without leaving people behind?
26. How do we utilize/engage current members?
27. How do we put Christ first in our church?
28. How can we learn about our community in more detail?
29. How can we be faithful with who and what we have?
30. How do we look outward into the community?

The workshops also provided many ideas for future programming – please watch the newsletter for announcements. Just a reminder, too, that the devotional booklet for these workshops is still posted under 'Resources for Churches' on the presbytery website [Devotional-Booklet-for-website.pdf](#)



[presbyteryofgeneva.org](http://presbyteryofgeneva.org)) to help guide you through the spiritual aspects of engaging in these conversations.

In this season of thanksgiving and gratitude, I'd also like to thank everyone who serves so diligently in such varied roles: committee members, elders, treasurers, pastors, clerks, Sunday School teachers, musicians, those who answer phones, type bulletins, scrub floors, order the candles, along with all of the other tasks that keep our churches functioning from one day to the next. May God continue to bless each and every one of you as we work together in the service of our Lord.

Peace and joy to you and your families this holiday season, Marji Ackerman, Presbytery Leader

### ***SAVE THE DATE: MLK JR. DAY OF SERVICE (JANUARY 15, 2024)***

The Presbytery Moderator shared information about the upcoming MLK Jr. Day of Service, planned for January 15, 2024. There will be two locations for this mission event: The First Presbyterian Church of Horseheads and The United Church of Canandaigua. At each location, volunteers will work together to assemble disaster assistance kits. A simple lunch will be offered at each location. Sign up information for this event will be shared with the Presbytery via email and on the Presbytery website soon.

### ***SAVE THE DATE: CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DAY (MARCH 2, 2024)***

TE Dan Russell (Hector) invited the Presbytery to participate in the Congregational Learning Day scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024. This learning opportunity is open to all. It is organized by the Presbytery of Genesee Valley, and it will be held via Zoom. Registration information will be shared with the Presbytery via email and on the Presbytery website soon.

### ***WORSHIP AND THE LORD'S SUPPER***

The Presbytery of Geneva engaged in a service of worship, led by TE Jeffrey Ugoretz (Corning, First), including the celebration of the Lord's Supper (online).

### ***BOARD OF PENSIONS UPDATES FROM BOP CHURCH CONSULTANT, REV. LUKE CHOI***

TE Luke Choi (Board of Pensions Church Consultant) shared updates and information about benefits available through the Board of Pensions (BOP).

- Churches and minister members will need to re-register on the Benefits Connect website in early January; the website is being overhauled, and the BOP says that it will be a much easier-to-navigate site in the new year.
- BoardLink will be available through the end of December for churches and other employers to make needed payments.
- There are several opportunities for churches to provide benefits for non-clergy employees that cost little to no money! Churches are encouraged to contact TE Luke Choi to learn more and get the process started. Information is also available on the BOP website: [www.pensions.org](http://www.pensions.org).
- Board of Pensions' Customer Service is available Monday - Friday from 8:30am-6pm (EST) by calling 1-800-773-7752.
- The contact information for TE Luke Choi, our BOP Church Consultant, is:  
Mobile Phone: 609-575-6321  
Office Phone: 215-587-7463  
Email: [LChoi@pensions.org](mailto:LChoi@pensions.org)

### ***GOOD NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONS***

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

- Western Presbyterian Church of Palmyra is having a concert to benefit the Good Neighbor Fund. Val Fowler is sharing his talent on December 17th at 3 PM.
- TE Colin Pritchard shared thanks, on behalf of the Presbytery, for the 8 years of Lea Kone's service as the Director of Camp Whitman. Lea Kone has been a fantastic camp director, guiding the camp to grow and blossom in amazing ways.

### ***INSTALLATION OF 2024 MODERATOR & VICE-MODERATOR***

The Moderator led the Presbytery in the Service of Installation for the 2024 Presbytery Moderator, TE Anita Milne (Waterloo, First), and the 2024 Vice Moderator, CRE Connie Franks (Ontario, First; serving Shortsville, First). The 2024 Moderator and Vice Moderator begin their service on January 1, 2024.

### ***RESOLUTION OF THANKS***

TE Cara Milne (Watkins Glen, First) offered the Resolution of Thanks.

### ***BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT***

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

The Moderator offered prayer and benediction, and pronounced the meeting to be adjourned at 7:10pm.

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Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

### **Additional Written Reports Provided to the Presbytery [November 28, 2023]**

#### **GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY**

**November 28, 2023 – Zoom.us**

[From the meetings of 10/10/2023 and 11/14/2023]

#### **ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION:**

The General Council moves the Presbytery to:

**Approve** the election of the following persons to serve on the Committee on Representation:

- Class of 2026: TE Paul Malles (Penn Yan, First)
- Class of 2026: TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King)
- Class of 2025: RE Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First)

#### **ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION**

##### **(Leadership)**

The General Council VOTED to *send* TE Anita Milne (Waterloo, First) to attend the Moderators' Conference in Louisville at presbytery's expense and *cover* the cost of a guest preacher at Waterloo, First.

##### **(Committee on Operations)**

The General Council VOTED to *direct* the Operations Committee to work with the Presbytery Leader to explore and apply for the appropriate grants offered by the Synod.

##### **(Committee on Representation)**

The General Council VOTED to *nominate* the following persons to serve on the Committee on Representation:

- Class of 2026: TE Paul Malles (Penn Yan, First)
- Class of 2026: TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King)
- Class of 2025: RE Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First)