

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, March 25, 2025, held virtually via Zoom.us.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

6:45 pm Registration and Fellowship Time (through 7:00 pm)

CALL TO ORDER

CRE Connie Franks (Shortsville, First), Moderator, read the Presbytery's mission and vision statements and called the meeting to order with prayer at 7:00 pm, a quorum being present.

ROLL

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

CONGREGATION	MINISTER(S)	COMMISSIONER	CONGREGATION	MINISTER(S)	COMMISSIONER
ADDISON	A - Peter Marr (CM)		MARION, UNITED	----	Frank Halstead
ANDOVER, FIRST	A - C. Mattison (CM)		MORELAND	A - Paul Yoder (CRE)	
ARKPORT, FIRST	Bruce Incze		NAPLES, TRINITY FEDERATED	A - Stu Buisch (CM)	
-----	-----	-----	NEWARK, PARK	EX - Susan Frost	A - Anne Rogers
BATH, FIRST	John Woodring	Douglas Schmiege	OAKS CORNERS	A - Karl Warrington	
BELLONA, MEMORIAL	Amy Loving Austin	EX - Roxann Carpenter	ONTARIO CENTER, FIRST	----	
BIG FLATS, FIRST	----	Robin Fitzgerald	OVID, FEDERATED	Rob Mellgard	Judy Mellgard
BURDETT	EX - Richard Evans (CRE)	EX - Martha Evans	PAINTED POST, UNITED	A - David Preisendanz	
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	A - Wade Allen (CM)	Ken Allen	PALMYRA, WESTERN	Hodong Hwang	A - Philip Opdycke
CANISTEO, FIRST	Michelle Serra		PENN YAN, FIRST	Paul Malles	Rob Anderson
COHOCTON, FIRST	----	A - Linda Hodges	PHELPS, UNITED	EX - H. Leigh Holder	Marsha Gibbs
CORNING, FIRST	A - Jeffrey Ugoretz	Kay Nash	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	----	A - Lynn Dinehart
EAST PALMYRA, FIRST	----	A - Judith Langdon	PULTENEY, FIRST	----	A - Mary Jane Peek
ELMIRA, FIRST	Lynn Rubier-Capron	Bill Ostrander	RED CREEK	----	Virginia Kachurak
ELMIRA, NORTH	Evan Hansen	Jeff Richards	ROCK STREAM	Carleen Frost (CRE)	
GENEVA, THE PC	Colin Pritchard	Harriet Haynes	SENECA #9	Amy Loving Austin	Pam Ells
-----	-----	-----	SENECA FALLS, FIRST	Leah Ntuala	A - Susan Sholar
HECTOR	Daniel Russell		SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	

HORNELL, UNITED	Ted Warner (G)	Beverly Packard	SODUS, FIRST	Gail Heimberger	A - Tom Miller
HORSEHEADS, FIRST	EX - Aaron Frank	Ruth Hauser	SPENCER, CHRIST THE KING FELLOWSHIP	Sabrina Slater	Tom Bailey
HOWARD, UNION	----		TRUMANSBURG, FIRST ULYSSES	EX - Susan Joseph Rack	A - Pamela Postle
HURON	A - Nancy J Farrell	Linda Hayes	WATERLOO, FIRST	Anita Milne	George Bassett
ITHACA, FIRST	Cynthia Weaver Kirianne Weaver	A - Brad McFall	WATKINS GLEN, FIRST	Linda Myers (CM)	Robert Rossiter
JASPER, UNITED	A - Brain Dieffenbacher (CM)		WESTON	----	Vera Dykes
LYONS, FIRST	----	Joanne Reinhardt	WOLCOTT, FIRST	A - Walter Stuber (CM)	Andrew DeMay

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

Marjorie Ackerman (VM)	EX- Adrian Tierson (VM)			
David Ashby (AL)	Michael Capron (AL)	EX- Deborah Grohman (AL)	Glenn Kennedy (AL)	EX- Christy Wareham (AL)
EX - Cara Milne (AL)				
EX- David Barnard (HR)	EX- Philip Courtney (HR)	EX- Betsey Crimmins (HR)	EX- Ellen Donnan (HR)	EX- Jim Gerling (HR)
EX- Pam Gnagy (HR)	James Hicks (HR)	Cynthia Huling Hummel (HR)	EX- Susan Husted (HR)	EX- Jeff Kellam (HR)
EX- James Kerr (HR)	EX- John Milne (HR)	EX- Tom Montgomery (HR)	EX- Paul Rack (HR)	EX- Robert Rochelle (HR)
EX- Barbara Schwartz (HR)	Jane Winters (HR)			

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

EX - Joanne (Juana) Tunison (Horseheads, First) COUNCIL (Mission and Witness)	Virginia Champlin (Geneva) COUNCIL (Presbyterian Women)	Sandra Ansley (Geneva) COUNCIL (Operations)	A - Paul Yoder (Horseheads, First) CRE (Moreland)
Pricilla Andrews (Rock Stream) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	EX - 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 (Rock Stream)	A - Bessie Tyrrell (Atlanta) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	A - Don Peek (Pulteney, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Connie Franks (Ontario, First) CRE (Shortsville, First)
Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western) COUNCIL (Operations)			

PRESBYTERY STAFF (granted voice)

Gretchen Duffy (Administrative Support Services)	EX- Bryan Muecke (Camp Whitman)
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REGISTERED GUESTS (Current Meeting; granted voice)

Chris Gerling (Geneva)
Ted Warner (Candidate Stated Supply, Hornell, United)
Kerm Bossard (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship)
Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First)

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2023	Jan 25	Mar 25					
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	29	23					
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	28	30					
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	-1	+7					
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	3	4					
Total Registered CMs, Visitors, and Staff	5	6					
Total Registered Attendance****	62	59					

* 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 Corresponding Members without vote

INTRODUCTORY BUSINESS

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

The presbytery VOTED to **approve** the docket for the meeting, as amended:

6:45 PM	Registration and fellowship time (through 7:00 PM)
7:00 PM	Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer
7:05 PM	Introductory Business
	Call for New Business & Approval of the Docket
	Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests
	Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land
7:10 PM	Consent Agenda, Clerk's Report, and Installation of the Stated Clerk
7:15 PM	Worship and the Lord's Supper
7:45 PM	Committee on Operations and Treasurer's Report [TE David Ashby (VM), Treasurer]
7:50 PM	Committee on Representation
7:55 PM	A Word About Upcoming Events
	Triennium [TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North)]
	Building Bridges Across Boundaries [CRE Connie Franks (Shortsville, First)]
8:05 PM	Open Space
8:30 PM	A Word from the Presbytery Leader [TE Marjorie Ackerman (VM), Presbytery Leader]
8:35 PM	Good News from Congregations
	* To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
8:40 PM	Resolution of Thanks
8:45 PM	Benediction and Adjournment

The presbytery VOTED to **receive** all written reports.

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

New Commissioners and Guests were introduced.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

TE Michelle Serra (Canisteo, First) offered acknowledgement of the first stewards of the land where we live and serve.

CONSENT AGENDA, CLERK'S REPORT, AND INSTALLATION OF THE STATED CLERK

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the January 25, 2025 Stated Presbytery Meeting.
2. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
3. **Receive** the February Financial Summary and Treasurer's Report.
4. **Elect** TE Amy E. Loving Austin (Stanley, Seneca #9 & Bellona, Memorial) to serve as the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Geneva for a 3 year term.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK

1. REMINDER: Congregations and Minister Members of the Presbytery are *strongly* encouraged (please!) to pay their per capita to the Presbytery of Geneva. The Presbytery portion of our per capita is our primary source of funding for staff support, enabling better communication and training opportunities for our congregations and members. Read about how per capita helps build up the body of Christ here: <https://pcusa.org/resources/financial-information/capita>
2. All commissioners are reminded of their responsibility to read through all meeting materials prior to each Presbytery Meeting. If you have any clarifying questions, you are encouraged to reach out to the appropriate person or committee prior to the meeting.
3. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars: <https://www.synodne.org/webinars>
4. Thank you to all who submitted their 2024 Statistical Reports! The Presbytery's Summary Report is included with the written reports for this meeting.
5. The written 2024 Necrology Report is included with the written reports for this meeting.

INSTALLATION OF THE STATED CLERK

The Moderator led the Presbytery in the Service of Installation of the Stated Clerk.

WORSHIP AND THE LORD'S SUPPER

The Presbytery of Geneva engaged in a service of worship – including the celebration of the Lord's Supper – with TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) preaching and presiding.

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS AND TREASURER'S REPORT

TE David Ashby (AL), Treasurer, highlighted a few items from the written report.

Commissioners, Clerks of Session, and pastoral leaders, please review the financial reports. In particular, review the AR 25 tab to see if our figures for your church's giving match yours. If you can keep your mission and per capita up to date, it helps the Mission and Witness Committee provide their grants to our communities and helps our operations budget. Thank you!

The Operations Committee recommends Sessions review their insurance coverage every five years or so, which makes 2025 a good year to check your policies. We remind you to have good policies and agreements with any groups using your properties.

Our online donation page is up and running with several categories for you to select. Go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBHC/home>. Please publicize it widely.

THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

RE Rob Anderson (Penn Yan, First) presented the report.

The Committee on Representation is actively looking for people who may be called and willing and able to serve. They are particularly searching for persons who may be called to serve on either the Committee on Ministry or the Committee on Mission and Witness. Anyone who is interested in learning more (and possibly serving) may email the committee at representation@presbyteryofgeneva.org.

A WORD ABOUT UPCOMING EVENTS

Triennium

TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) shared that arrangements for the PCUSA Youth 2025 Triennium are coming together, with several area Presbyteries working together to coordinate travel plans. Registration is due by April 15th. Questions may be directed to Rev. Hansen.

Building Bridges Across Boundaries

CRE Connie Franks (Shortsville, First) shared information about an upcoming Multi-Presbytery retreat that we are hosting at Camp Whitman (May 9-10, 2025). All are invited to attend to rest, relax, make new friends, and reconnect with others.

Marching in the Light of God

TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) shared information about an event being held on Pentecost Sunday:

In celebration of Pentecost, we shall gather to Stand up for what Christ Taught on Sunday, June 8, 2025, 1pm at (TBD)

Standing up for what Christ Taught, Marching in the Light of God:
we are invited to walk in the footsteps of Christ, guided by the Holy Spirit, in service of the least of these.

Modeling the Ministry of Jesus, we:

- Feed the hungry food
- Give the thirsty a drink
- Welcome in the stranger
- Clothe the naked
- Care for the sick, and
- Visit the prisoners. (Matthew 25)

This march is an expression of God's diversity, equity, and inclusion.

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because God has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; God has sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set free those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord," - Luke 4: 18-19

OPEN SPACE

The Presbytery of Geneva engaged in a time for "open space" conversations, dividing into discussion groups based on the topics suggested by those in attendance.

After ~30 minutes, the Presbytery returned to one group and briefly shared highlights of what each group had discussed.

One group had discussed more about the Marching in the Light of God event. Their hope is that the event will recognize and promote the Matthew 25 perspectives/initiatives in a positive light, sharing and witnessing to the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. This same group also expressed concern for TE Hodong Hwang (Palmyra, Western), who will be traveling out of the country in May. With the current administration actively detaining and deporting *legal* green card holders, many are concerned for his safety and wellbeing.

A WORD FROM THE PRESBYTERY LEADER

TE Marji Ackerman thanked the committees in our presbytery for all of the amazing, hard work that they do.

GOOD NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONS

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

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship) 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 8:38 pm. .

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

ADDITIONAL WRITTEN REPORTS

TREASURER'S REPORT

Commissioners, Clerks of Session, and pastoral leaders, please review the financial reports <Financials Presbytery of Geneva_February 2025.xlsx>. In particular, review the AR 25 tab to see if our figures for your church's giving match yours. If you can keep your mission and per capita up to date, it helps the Mission and Witness Committee provide their grants to our communities and helps our operations budget. Thank you!

Our accounts at Community Bank 03-07-25

CKGENERAL \$90,608.73

SAVGENERAL\$27,832.16

CKCAMP \$54,079.75

SAVCAMP \$55,151.43

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Total \$227,672.07

Funds with Presbyterian Foundation

Camp Whitman Endowment \$52,958

Presbytery Endowment \$26,800

Total \$79,757

Camp Whitman (value 2023) \$1,934,712

Since the last meeting, we have received some contributions from congregations, which helps. Our working balances remain narrow. We received \$26,646.77 from the sale of the Junius building yet to be distributed, which artificially inflates our balance. Our year-round payroll is approximately \$6k per month.

The Operations Committee recommends Sessions review their insurance coverage every five years or so, which makes 2025 a good year to check your policies. We remind you to have good policies and agreements with any groups using your properties.

Our online donation page is up and running with several categories for you to select. Go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBHC/home>. Please publicize it widely.

The 2024 audit with Heveron will begin shortly.

As always, have at me with questions!

David Ashby

treasurer@presbyteryofgeneva.org

607-227-5216

NECROLOGY REPORT

TO: Presbytery of Geneva

FROM: Rev. Bruce Incze and the Leader Care Committee

RE: 2024 NECROLOGY REPORT

At the November 19, 2024 Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Geneva, a sacred time of remembrance was set aside for the reading of the Necrology of the Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders who passed away in 2024 between January 1 and October 31. The below listed saints were remembered:

	FIRST	LAST	ORD YR	CONGREGATION	CITY
RE	Norman	Bentley Sr.	1967	Huron Presbyterian Church	Wolcott
RE	Ruth	Eads		First Presbyterian Church	Waterloo
RE	Thomas	Filiatreau Sr		United Church of Phelps	Phelps
RE	Myrtle	Gates		First Presbyterian Church of East Palmyra	East Palmyra
RE	David	Hicks		United Church of Phelps	Phelps
Rev	Donald	Howland	1960	First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca	Ithaca
.					
RE	Carson	Lankford		First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls	Seneca Falls
Rev	Douglas	Madden	1990	First Presbyterian Church of Bath	Bath
.					
Rev	Fred	Magley		United Church of Canandaigua	Canandaigua
.					
RE	Gail	Maureen	2018	Christ the King Fellowship	Spencer
Rev	Suzanne	Otterbacher		The Presbyterian Church of Geneva	Geneva
.					
RE	Jean	Poormon		First Presbyterian Church	Waterloo
RE	Nancy	Poormon		First Presbyterian Church	Waterloo
RE	Charles	Potter	1971	First Presbyterian Church of Pulteney	Pulteney
RE	Helga	Raymond	1986	Huron Presbyterian Church	Wolcott
RE	Janeth	Richards	1994	First Presbyterian Church	Watkins Glenn
RE	Elaine	Ritter		First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls	Seneca Falls
RE	Robert	Spink		United Church of Phelps	Phelps
RE	Francis	Steverson		Lodi Presbyterian Church	Lodi
RE	F. Lee	Walters		United Church of Phelps	Phelps
RE	William	Willey	1993	United Presbyterian Church	Hornell
RE	Donna	Williams		First Presbyterian Church of Shortsville	Shortsville

Prayers were said and a total of 18 Ruling Elders and 4 Teaching Elders were remembered with gratitude. There were 15 congregations providing input to the Necrology, five of those reporting no loss. We also said goodbye to the First Presbyterian Church of Hammondsport, serving the Body of Christ 1831-2023.

Very respectfully,
Pastor Bruce Incze
Leader Care Committee, Chair (2024)

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT

March 25, 2025 Zoom.us

[From the meetings of 02/04/25 and 03/04/25, and action taken 03/19/25]

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION – None

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

Approve the Covenant for Services as a Covenanted Pastor-Stated Pulpit Supply-between the First United Presbyterian Church (Sodus) and the Rev. Gail Heimberger for full time for the Year 2025.

Approve the Annual Terms of Call between Elmira North and the Rev. Evan Hansen for full time for the Year 2025.

Approve the Covenant for Services as a Covenanted Pastor between the United Church of Painted Post and the Rev. David Preisendanz for the Year 2025.

Approve the Covenant for Services as a Covenanted Pastor between the Andover First Presbyterian Church and Christian Mattison for the Year 2025.

Approve the Request for a Waiver of Term Limits for Oak's Corners RE Debbie Gee for 1 Year.

Respectfully Receive and Approve at his request, John Gingerich's wish to be removed from the Pulpit Supply List.

Approve the Request for Waiver of Term Limits for Lyons Presbyterian Church for RE Camille Clark for a term of 1 year.

Approve the Annual Approval Of Terms of Call between the First Presbyterian Church of Seneca Falls and the Rev. Leah Ntuala for 2025.

Approve the Annual Approval Of Terms of Call between Christ the King Fellowship Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Sabrina Slater for 2025.

Approve the Annual Annual Approval Of Terms of Call between the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses and the Rev. Susan Joseph Rack for 2025.

Approve the Annual Annual Approval Of Terms of Call between the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca and the Rev. Kirianne E. Weaver for 2025.

Approve the Covenant for Services as a Covenanted Pastor between the First Presbyterian Church of Ithaca and the Rev. Cynthia A. Weaver.

Approve the Annual Approval of Terms of Call between the First Presbyterian Church of Elmira and the Rev. Lynn Rubier-Capron for 2025.

Approve the dissolution agreement between the United Church of Phelps and the Rev. Dr. H. Leigh Holder, effective end of day April 30, 2025.

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

Approve the Annual Review for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Cohocton for the Year 2024.

Approve the Annual Review for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor for the United Church of Marion for the Year 2024

Approve the Annual Review for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor for the First Presbyterian Church of Prattsburgh for the Year 2024.

Approve the Annual Review for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor for the Howard Union Church for the Year 2024.

Approve the Annual Review for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor for the Huron Presbyterian Church for the Year 2024.

Approve the Annual Review for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor for the Lyons Presbyterian Church for the Year 2024.

Approve adding the requirement that churches submit copies of their Annual Reports from the previous 2 years as part of the required mission study completed prior to a pastor search committee being formed.

Approve the updated Pulpit Supply List and Guidelines.

Approve the updated Form 1a: Annual Approval of Terms of Call.

Approve East Palmyra Presbyterian Church's Annual Review for 2024 for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor.

Approve Weston Presbyterian Church's Annual Review for 2024 for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor.

Approve Pulteney Presbyterian Church's Annual Review for 2024 for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor.

Approve Red Creek Presbyterian Church Annual Review for 2024 for Congregations without a called or covenanted pastor.

Approve Rev. Pat Schick to be added to the Pulpit Supply List.

Grant permission for Jane Winters to provide pulpit supply for Big Flats for all of Lent and Easter Sunday.

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY

March 25, 2025

[From the meetings of 02/ and 01/14/25]

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY’S ACTION: None

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY’S INFORMATION

(Camp Whitman and Committee on Operations)

The General Council VOTED to approve naming Bryan Muecke as the Camp Whitman lead representative for a USDA-NRCS Woodland Management Grant.

UPCOMING PRESBYTERY MEETING DATES

Tuesday, March 25, 2025	7:00 pm	Zoom
Tuesday, May 20, 2025	10:00 am	Camp Whitman
Tuesday, September 23, 2025	10:00 am	In-Person (location TBA) and Zoom
Tuesday, November 18, 2025	1:00 pm	In-Person (location TBA) and Zoom
Saturday, January 24, 2026	10:00 am	Zoom