

OUR PURPOSE

*The Presbytery of Geneva lives to support and equip congregations and leaders
to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the world.*

OUR VISION

*Radiating the light of Christ, the Presbytery of Geneva thrives
as a community of servants, lifting up every congregation and leader
in ministering together.*

MINUTES

The Presbytery of Geneva held a Stated Meeting on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, held online via Zoom.co.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

12:30 pm Registration and Fellowship Time (through 1:00 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 1:00 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	EX - Paul Yoder (CRE)	
ARKPORT, FIRST	Bruce Incze		NAPLES, TRINITY FEDERATED	EX - Stu Buisch (CM)	
-----	-----	-----	NEWARK, PARK	H. Leigh Holder	A - Debbie McCrosen
BATH, FIRST	John Woodring		OAKS CORNERS	A - Karl Warrington	
BELLONA, MEMORIAL	Amy Loving Austin	EX - Roxann Carpenter	ONTARIO CENTER, FIRST	----	
BIG FLATS, FIRST	Patricia Schick	A - Robin Fitzgerald	OVID, FEDERATED	Rob Mellgard	EX - Judy Mellgard
BURDETT	EX - Richard Evans (CRE)	EX - Martha Evans	PAINTED POST, UNITED	David Preisendanz	
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	A - Wade Allen (CM)	Edwin Blance	PALMYRA, WESTERN	Hodong Hwang	Philip Opdycke
CANISTEO, FIRST	Michelle Serra		PENN YAN, FIRST	EX - Paul Malles	Rob Anderson
COHOCTON, FIRST	----	EX - Linda Hodges	PHELPS, UNITED		A - Marsha Gibbs
CORNING, FIRST	Jeffrey Ugoretz	EX - Kay Nash	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	----	A - Lynn Dinehart
EAST PALMYRA, FIRST	----	A - Josh McCrosen	PULTENEY, FIRST	----	Mary Jane Peek
ELMIRA, FIRST	EX - Lynn Rubier-Capron	A - Barbara Fitzsimmons	RED CREEK	----	A - Virginia Kachurak
ELMIRA, NORTH	Evan Hansen	Annie LeFevre	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	-----	A - Shelly Gimbar	SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	
HORNELL, UNITED	Ted Warner	Lisa Sanford	SODUS, FIRST	A - Gail Heimberger	A - Tom Miller
HORSEHEADS, FIRST	Aaron Frank	A - Ruth Hauser	SPENCER, CHRIST THE KING FELLOWSHIP	Sabrina Slater	A - Tom Bailey
HOWARD, UNION	----		TRUMANSBURG, FIRST ULYSSES	EX - Susan Joseph Rack	EX - Alexis Schaefer
HURON	A - Nancy J Farrell	Linda Hayes	WATERLOO, FIRST	Anita Milne	A - George Bassett
ITHACA, FIRST	Cynthia Weaver Kirianna Weaver	A - Brad McFall	WATKINS GLEN, FIRST	A - Linda Myers (CM)	Diane Edwards
JASPER, UNITED	A - Brain Dieffenbacher (CM)		WESTON	----	Barry Winters
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)	Adrian Tierson (VM)	Daniel Russell (VM)		
David Ashby (AL)	Michael Capron (AL)	A - Todd Haines (AL)	Glenn Kennedy (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)	EX - Cynthia Huling Hummel (HR)	EX - Susan Husted (HR)	EX - Jeff Kellam (HR)
James Kerr (HR)	EX - John Milne (HR)	EX - Tom Montgomery (HR)	Paul Rack (HR)	EX - Robert Rochelle (HR)
Barbara Schwartz (HR)	Jane Winters (HR)	EX - Sam Edwards (HR)	Christy Wareham (HR)	

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

Joanne (Juana) Tunison (Horseheads, First) COUNCIL (Mission and Witness)	Virginia Champlin (Geneva) COUNCIL (Presbyterian Women)	Sandra Ansley (Geneva) COUNCIL (Operations)	EX - Paul Yoder (Horseheads, First) CRE (Moreland)
EX - 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)	Don Peek (Pulteney, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Connie Franks (Ontario, First) CRE (Shortsville, First)
Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western) COUNCIL (Operations)	Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First) COUNCIL (Leader Care)	EX - Chris Gerling (Geneva) COM Co-Chair	EX - Kerm Bossard (Spencer, CTKF) COUNCIL (RE At-Large)

PRESBYTERY STAFF (granted voice)

Gretchen Duffy (Administrative Support Services)	Bryan Muecke (Camp Whitman)
--	-----------------------------

REGISTERED GUESTS (Current Meeting; granted voice)

TE John Odom (Executive Presbyter, Genesee Valley Presbytery)

SUMMARIES FOR EACH MEETING 2023	Jan 25	Mar 25	Apr 29	May 20	Sept 23	Nov 18	
Total Minister Commissioners Present*	29	23	18	24	22	31	
Total Elder Commissioners Present **	28	30	16	23	24	24	
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	-1	+7	-2	-1	+2	-7	
Total Minister Commissioners Absent, Unexcused***	3	4	8	2	2	3	
Total Registered CMs, Visitors, and Staff	5	6	6	16	7	3	
Total Registered Attendance****	62	59	40	63	53	58	

* 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:

- 12:30 PM Registration and fellowship time (through 1:00 PM)
- 1:00 PM Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer
- 1:05 PM Introductory Business
 - Call for New Business & Approval of the Docket
 - Introduction of New Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Guests
 - Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land [TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North)]
 - Announcements
- 1:15 PM Consent Agenda and Clerk's Report
- 1:20 PM Camp Whitman [Bryan Muecke, Camp Whitman Director]
- 1:40 PM Committee on Operations and Treasurer's Report
[RE Sandra Ansley (Geneva) and TE David Ashby (VM)]
- 1:50 PM Worship and the Lord's Supper
- 2:30 PM Necrology Report
- 2:40 PM Synod of the Northeast Report [TE Aaron Frank (Horseheads, First)]
- 2:50 PM Installation of 2026 Moderator
- 3:00 PM Good News from Congregations & Committees
 - * To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
- 3:20 PM A Word from the Presbytery Leader [TE Marjorie Ackerman (VM)]
- 3:25 PM Resolution of Thanks [RE Virginia Champlin (Geneva)]
- 3:30 PM Prayer, Benediction, and Adjournment

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS, CORRESPONDING MEMBERS, AND GUESTS

New Commissioners, Corresponding Members, and Guests were introduced to the assembly.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) offered acknowledgement of the first stewards of the land where we live and serve.

CONSENT AGENDA & CLERK'S REPORT

The Stated Clerk, TE Amy Loving Austin (Stanley, Seneca #9 / Bellona, Memorial), presented the Consent Agenda and Clerk's Report.

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the September 23, 2025 Stated Presbytery Meeting.
2. **Approve** seating of Corresponding Members (CMs) [note: CMs have voice, not vote].
3. **Grant** privilege of voice to non-commissioners who will make a presentation or participate in a report to the presbytery.
4. **Receive** the Treasurer's Report.
5. **Receive** the proposed 2026 Presbytery Budget for a FIRST READ [the final budget will be presented for approval at the Stated Presbytery Meeting in January 2026].
6. **Approve** the election of TE Jim Gerling (HR) to serve on the Committee on Representation, Class of 2028.
7. **Receive** all written reports provided for the November 18, 2025 Stated Presbytery Meeting.

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK

1. 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.
2. The Stated Clerk asks that each session elect their 2026 Elder Commissioner to the Presbytery of Geneva before the end of this year – and notify the Stated Clerk (StatedClerk@PresbyteryOfGeneva.org), before the January 2026 meeting.
3. Rev. Ted Warner was Ordained as a Minister of Word and Sacrament and Installed as the Pastor of the United Presbyterian Church of Hornell, NY, on October 11, 2025, at the United Presbyterian Church of Hornell, NY.
4. REMINDER: Congregations and Minister Members of the Presbytery are *strongly* encouraged (*please!*) to pay their 2025 per capita (\$59.01) 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.
Minister Members, you can make your per capita payment online:
<https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBHC/home>
Read about how per capita helps build up the body of Christ here:
<https://pcusa.org/resources/financial-information/capita>
5. IMPORTANT NOTE (a correction): The 2026 per capita is \$66.43.
[the GA portion is \$11.26, the SynodNE portion is \$4.25, and the Presbytery portion is \$50.92]
6. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars:
<https://www.synodne.org/webinars-2>

REPORT FROM CAMP WHITMAN

Bryan Muecke (Camp Whitman Executive Director) presented the report.

From the Cover Letter included in the Presbytery Documents:

This is an exciting time for Camp Whitman! We are nearing 75 years of outdoor ministry on Seneca Lake. How incredible and humbling it is to carry on the work of faith formation and friendship on the former Leach farm.

As you are likely aware, Camp Whitman is asking for your support in the next important chapter of our story. Our hope is to file for incorporation as a 501c3, non-profit corporation by early December, and begin operating as Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, Inc (an outdoor ministry of the PCUSA, located in the Presbytery of Geneva) on January 1, 2026.

We have been working with attorney Carl Steinbrenner, Esq. on the incorporation process with New York State and the IRS. We have also been mentored in the process by PCUSA Camp Hanover, Inc. located in the Presbytery of the James in the state of Virginia.

The officers of the new corporation will be as follows: Adam Scoville (PGV) – Chair, Terri Tugel (PGV) – Secretary, and Karl Thaessler-CPA (PGV) – Treasurer. At-large members to be approved by the officers at the January camp board meeting include: Cim McFarlane (POG), David Preisendanz (POG), and John Dehority (PGV). This gives the camp 6 board members within the stated range of 5-9 board members. We

are actively recruiting individuals to fill the 3 open seats on the camp board. Bryan Muecke (myself) will continue as Executive Director and serve in a non-voting, ex-officio role on the camp board as well as certain committees as directed by the board.

For the stated meeting, please review the documents included with this letter. They include the new corporation's Bylaws, the Covenant Agreement between the camp and the Presbytery, and the list of Motions for you to consider and vote on at the November 18th meeting.

Thank you for your continued support of Camp Whitman. This move toward incorporation will allow us to seek a broader range of grant funding to support the camp now and in its future growth. Incorporation will also limit the liability that the Presbytery and camp now share. Each organization will be only responsible for its own liability.

And finally, this move will allow each to operate as the unique ministry organizations that they are. The Presbytery is not a camp, and the camp is not a Presbytery. The two organizations have unique needs and different rhythms. Each will be able to move forward without concern of significantly impacting the other.

On behalf of the current Camp Whitman Committee and the future Camp Whitman board of directors, THANK YOU! We look forward to many more years of partnering with you in Outdoor Faith Formation Ministry. Please do not hesitate to reach out with questions or concerns!

Grace & peace,

Bryan Muecke, Executive Director

607-385-0375 director@campwhitman.org

The new corporation's Bylaws and the Covenant Agreement between the Camp and the Presbytery were presented to the Presbytery.

Rationale was provided for the 3 parts of the motion coming from the Committee on Operations (Trustees of the Presbytery of Geneva):

- Incorporation makes Camp Whitman a more viable, sustainable, and effective camp ministry, helps provide financial security for the Presbytery of Geneva (POG) and insulates the POG from Camp Whitman-related liability claims. Incorporation would also reflect the growing trend of Presbyterian camps moving in this direction.
- The Covenant Agreement describes the relationship between the POG and Camp Whitman post incorporation. It helps ensure close cooperation and the continuity of shared mission goals.
- Addendum A, Item 2 establishes the level of future monthly support for Camp Whitman's ministry post incorporation during the term of the Covenant Agreement. This provides financial certainty for the POG during the term of the Covenant Agreement. Addendum A, Item 3 lists current funds that have been established to receive contributions solely for the benefit of Camp Whitman as well as current physical assets, neither of which should be held by the POG after Camp Whitman is incorporated.

REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS & THE TREASURER

RE Sandra Ansley (Geneva), chairperson of the Committee on Operations, presented the motions from Committee on Operations (Trustees of the Presbytery of Geneva):

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to **approve**:

- Camp Whitman be **incorporated** subject to their Articles of Incorporation and governed by their By-Laws.
- **ratify** the Covenant Agreement with the future Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, Inc. (Camp Whitman)
- that the Presbytery of Geneva **provide** financial support to Camp Whitman as stipulated in Addendum A, Items 1 and 2 of the Covenant Agreement and **transfer** to Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake, Inc. all designated assets listed in Addendum A, Item 3 of the Covenant Agreement.

TE David Preisendanz offered prayer for Camp Whitman, the Presbytery of Geneva, and the other ministry partners of Camp Whitman (including the Presbytery of Genesee Valley), as we begin a new chapter in our work together.

Presbytery Treasurer, TE David Ashby (AL), presented his report.

Treasurer's report to Presbytery 11-18-25

Our accounts at Community Bank

	10-11-25	11-08-25	
CKGENERA	\$77,233.45	\$58,137.66	
SAVGENERAL	\$27,835.42	\$27,835.89	
CKCAMP	\$37,516.27	\$38,285.32	
SAVCAMP	\$45,157.77	\$45,158.54	
	-----	-----	
Total	\$187,742.91	\$169,417.41	-\$18,325.5

Funds with New Covenant Funds / Presbyterian Foundation (June 2025)

Camp Whitman Endowment	\$109,333	
Camp Whitman Scholarship	\$63,882	
Presbytery Endowment	\$59,808	
Camp Whitman (value 2024)	\$2,462,743	(incl. vehicles, boats, equipment, etc.)

We are finally catching up on our checking balances. All the mission and hunger-alleviation grants have been disbursed. Contributions from congregations still languish.

2026 budget is going to be interesting. The biggest change is that many lines of Camp Whitman will disappear, with a single block allocation of \$90k to Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake Inc. Great care needs to be taken on how the block grant is understood; some congregations and individuals will not understand that we are still supporting Camp through the presbytery budget and shift to direct contributions, starving presbytery mission.

I'm concerned about the per capita and the mission challenges for 2026, given that contributions in 2025 have been weaker than expected.

Marjorie Case, our contracted bookkeeper is retiring. Operations will be seeking a new bookkeeper and financial support person. Suggestions from congregations and commissioners are welcome for someone with bookkeeping through QuickBooks and light payroll. Please email or call me directly.

2026 per capita

GA	\$11.26
SynodNE	\$4.25
Presbytery	\$50.92
TOTAL	\$66.43

Our online donation page is <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBHC/home>. Publicize it widely.

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 Jeffrey Ugoretz (Corning, First) preaching and TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship) presiding.

2025 NECROLOGY REPORT

The Committee on Leader Care presented the report, naming the Ruling Elders and Teaching Elders (Reverends) who passed since November 2024. .

RE Kenneth Allen – Canandaigua – ordained 2010
RE Carl Aten – Geneva – ordained 1965
RE Robert Bellman – Moreland

RE Maxine Burroughs – North Presbyterian Elmira – ordained 1999
RE Edward Bush – Painted Post – ordained 1969
RE Carol Crain – Penn Yan
RE Ronald DeCracker – Lyons – ordained 1982
RE John Domm – Ontario Center
RE Charles Dunlap – Ulysses, Trumansburg
RE Joanne Elseev – Seneca Falls – ordained 1987
RE Suzanne Goodrich – Penn Yan
Rev. Deborah Grohman – Ontario Center – ordained 1998
RE Wilma Johnson – Hornell – ordained 1979
RE Bill Lamb – Geneva – ordained 2005
RE Frank Lawrence – Western, Palmyra – ordained 1984
RE Alexandria Leto – Naples
RE Janet Marks – North Presbyterian, Elmira – ordained 1989
RE Karen Montgomery – Penn Yan
CRE James Mosher – North Presbyterian, Elmira – ordained 1997, commissioned 2004
RE Judith Pearce – Watkins Glen – ordained 1985
RE Betty Lou Pearsall – Watkins Glen – ordained 1997
RE Pauline Root – Addison – ordained 1975
RE William Rothaug – Wolcott – ordained 1996
RE David Sanford – Canandaigua – ordained 2000
RE Ed Sharp – Geneva – ordained 1993
RE Bruce Sloth – Seneca #9
RE Ken Steadman – Geneva – ordained 1977
RE John Tarr – Geneva – ordained 1963
RE Stanley Van Vleet – Ovid / Lodi
RE Nelson Whiteman – Arkport – ordained 1991
RE Harold Wolfe – North Presbyterian, Elmira – ordained 1989

SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST REPORT

TE Aaron Frank (Horseheads, First) presented the report.

- The Synod of the Northeast gathered in Amsterdam, New York Northwest of Albany on Saturday, November 15 for the purpose of adopting the new vision for the Synod as presented by the Discernment Team. The new vision is entitled *Reimagining the Church in the World*.
- For those who are unaware, three years ago Synod gathered and commissioned a Discernment Team of leaders from across the Synod to enter into dialogue with presbyteries and their churches and to examine existing relationships practices with an eye toward identifying how Synod can better serve presbyteries and churches in the coming years.
- Last year the Discernment Team presented their findings to the Assembly and over the course of this year, the Discernment Team has worked with the Synod leadership team to draft this new vision.
- Six pillars ground the work and organize the new vision. These six pillars are:
 - Theology, and Spiritual Formation
 - Governance
 - Grants
 - Collaboration
 - Storytelling and Communication
 - Regional learning
- The Vision Report has been emailed out this morning by the Presbytery office and if you personally haven't received it, you can visit the Synod website, along with the progress reports from the Discernment Team. The website address is www.synodne.org.

- Having heard the report of the Discernment Team, there was discussion amongst the assembly, moderated by Reverend Sabrina Slater, who was a member of the Discernment Team and, as we know, a member of our Presbytery. Following that discussion, the new vision was adopted unanimously by the body of the assembly.
- Following the adoption of the Vision Report, the Discernment Team was thanked for their three years of service and officially dismissed.
- What's Next? Over the next year, an implementation team will be constituted to help facilitate the transition to the new governance structure. From now through the September of next year, 2026, Synod will continue to operate as usual. In October 2026, the Assembly will gather for its first meeting under the new governance structure. The implementation team will be installed at that time, and all assembly members receive training to better understand how Synod will operate under this new vision. (Anyone interested in serving on the Implementation Team can apply beginning in April 2026.)

-
- So, what is the new vision?
 - For some time now, the Synod of the Northeast has identified it as a "Programmatic Synod," meaning that we do more than just administrative work. We collaborate, we educate, we lead, and we are prophetic across the eight states, 19 presbyteries, 967 churches and numerous New Worshiping Communities that make up the Synod. Under the new vision, we seek to more fully live into all of those aspects of our call, and to help to better serve Presbyteries and churches in the coming years.
 - I encourage you to review the entirety of the report for all the details, but here are the highlights. Currently each Presbytery can send five representatives to the Synod Assembly, which meets every other year. Those five individuals are made up of: two teaching elders, two ruling elders and one young adult advisory delegate (YAAD). In the new structure, Synod Assembly will shrink to have to have only three representatives from each Presbytery: one teaching elder, one ruling elder, and one YAAD. As well as, representatives from each of the four caucuses recognized by the Synod: Native American Caucus, Black Caucus, Hispanic Caucus, and Asian Caucus, plus one representative from Presbyterian Women. The Presbytery will need to submit the names of those who we want to represent us in August of 2026 (1 TE, 1 RE, 1 YAAD).
 - In the current governance structure, the leadership team (or council) meets monthly to oversee day to day operations and the assembly meets once every two years. A subset of the Assembly is the Mission and Ministries Commission which meets three times each year. The commission is made up of one representative from each Presbytery. The Mission and Ministries Commission will cease to exist in September 2026 and the Assembly as a whole will be divided into roles and responsibilities under each of the six pillars and that entire body will meet three times per year.
 - Each of the six pillars will have various committees, commissions, and working groups under their authority. Additionally, the Synod has voted to allow more than just teaching elders, ruling elders, and YAADS to constitute those groups. Non-ordained laity can serve in some of these subgroups.
 - The Synod is redoubling its programmatic efforts in missions and prophetic witness across the northeast. These programs include:
 - the Robert Washington scholars program, a one year leadership formation opportunity for individuals, considering ordination or other roles within our denomination.
 - The small church residency which, as the name implies, invites a designated pastor to serve a small church for three years receiving, not only financial support from the Synod but also leadership development, coaching, and general support during that season of growth.
 - A community organizing cohort, which will prepare leaders across the region to engage neighbors and strangers within the community on topics and issues that are specifically relevant to their day-to-day lives and seek theologically informed solutions to these needs.
 - A synod-wide commissioned pastor training program. This program will be focused on creating a standardized Commissioned Ruling Elder (CRE) training program across the 19 presbyteries of our Synod. This program will be directed by Synod leaders and have faculty from within our Synod and be run in collaboration with Dubuque theological seminary.

- The Early Ministry Institute, which many of us are familiar with, is a three year training program which gathers ministers new in their career for education for spiritual reflection and general support as they navigate church life.
- Pathways to Mid-Council Leadership. A four-day training session designed to equip individuals considering Presbytery and Synod leadership roles with a basic understanding of the responsibilities that come with such leadership.
- The Advocacy and Immigration Task Force, which is a ministry focused on supporting vulnerable populations, including immigrants, refugees, and those impacted by inequitable policies and social systems across the northeast. The task force seeks to advocate on behalf of those who do not have a voice or have been silenced, to provide education and awareness, to build coalitions for this work, and to provide spiritual and emotional support to those in need and one another.
- The Synod continues its commitment to providing professional coaching to pastors and other church leaders, as well as the mediation network which provides support to pastors and churches and presbyteries.
- While the Synod is blessed with many resources, professional, spiritual, and financial, living into our call to be a programmatic Synod is not an inexpensive action. The Synod has substantial financial resources, however, many of those are donor restricted which limits some of the Synod's ability to utilize those funds. In the coming year, we will recruit a Funds Development Intern, a new position, to help bolster giving to the Synod for its programmatic needs.
- Another new position, a Mid-Council Resident for Programs, Leadership Development, and Administration, has been approved. This is a two-year full-time residency that provides the individual with an introduction into mid-council ministry and leadership. More information is in the vision report.
- The Synod remains committed to providing grant funding for presbyteries and churches and affiliated organizations doing innovative and foundational work across our region. Again more information is available in the vision report and on the website.
- The Synod also has a new logo. Designed by the Discernment Team in conversation with Synod staff and based upon the listening sessions with the Synod. Each element of the new logo is imbued with spiritual and theological meaning. I encourage you to read the description in the report.
- The final piece of business that the Synod approved was the personnel committee's endorsement of Rev. Dr. SanDawna Gaulman-Ashley to be Synod Leader. Personnel presented a motion to install her in that role for a renewable term of 5 years. The vote on this motion was an overwhelming, 'yes.'
- Our meeting concluded with worship which included the amazing praise choir from Memorial Presbyterian Church in Jamaica-Queens, a dynamic and inspiring sermon from Rev. Ashley and the service of installation for Rev. Ashley.
- This is an exciting time for Synod. In the coming years, our Presbytery and our churches should expect to see continued and expanded benefits from the Synod.

INSTALLATION OF 2026 PRESBYTERY MODERATOR

Members of the Presbytery of Geneva engaged in a Service of Installation, installing TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) to serve as the Moderator of the Presbytery of Geneva beginning January 1, 2026.

GOOD NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONS & COMMITTEES

Members of the Presbytery of Geneva shared good news and updates from their congregations and committees.

- ❖ At Western Presbyterian, a long-time member, Lois Daniels, donated 1,000 boxes of cereal in one year. In her memory, the congregation was challenged in March to donate 1,000 boxes of cereal. They are within 5 boxes of reaching our goal. Lois's donation was to the Palmyra-Macedon Food Pantry. This year 500 boxes were donated to the food pantry and the other 500 boxes were given to the Food Emergency Cupboard they have in their church yard along Main Street.
- ❖ The First Presbyterian Church of Lyons will present an ecumenical Christmas Cantata on Sunday, Dec. 7th at 2:00. All are welcome!
- ❖ The Memorial Presbyterian Church of Bellona, NY, is hosting a Blue Christmas Service on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, at 11:00am. All are welcome to attend – especially pastoral leaders who may not usually have an opportunity to simply *attend* a service of this type.

The Presbytery of Geneva joined in prayer, giving thanks for the good news that was shared, and for prayer requests that were shared in the Zoom chat.

A WORD FROM THE PRESBYTERY LEADER

Presbytery Leader, TE Marjorie Ackerman (VM), shared a prayerful meditation. She concluded her meditation with these words:

*Could we with ink
the ocean fill
and were the sky
of parchment made,
were every stalk
on earth a quill
and every man
a scribe by trade;
to write the love
of God above
would drain the ocean dry,
nor could the scroll
contain the whole,
though stretched from sky to sky.*

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Hallelujah!

*The love of God,
how rich and pure,
how measureless and strong;
it shall forevermore endure
the saints' and angels' song.*

- from "The Love of God" by MercyMe

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

RE Virginia Champlin (Geneva) offered the resolution of thanks, counting the many blessings we witnessed and experienced in our meeting today..

BENEDICTION AND ADJOURNMENT

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

The Moderator offered prayer and declared the meeting adjourned at 3:25pm.

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk