

Next Council Meeting: January 14, 2024 (Zoom.us) – 9:15 a.m.

**GENERAL COUNCIL of THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA**

**Minutes of Meeting**

December 10, 2024 ~ 9:15 a.m. ~ Zoom.us

**Our Presbytery Purpose**

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

**Our Presbytery 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.

**Our Council Purpose**

Organize the life of the Presbytery, holding the Presbytery accountable to God’s call to mission by coordinating the implementation of the Presbytery’s purpose, vision, strategy, and structure.

**DRAFT**

**MEMBERS**

P	Elder Jeff Richards (North, Elmira) Chair, General Council	P	Rev. Anita Milne (Waterloo) Presbytery Moderator	P	CRE Connie Franks (Shortsville) Presbytery Vice-Moderator
A	Rev. Kirianne Weaver (Ithaca, First) Vitality Committee	P	Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva) Presbyterian Women Rep.	P	Rev. David Preisendanz (Painted Post, United) Camp Whitman Committee Rep.
P	Elder Beth Newell (Geneva) Committee on Ministry (COM).	P	Elder Sandra Ansley (Geneva) Operations Committee Rep.	P	Elder Joanne (Juana) Tunison (Lares, PR, Iglesia Presbiteriana) Mission & Witness Committee Rep.
EX	Elder Kerm Bossard (Spencer, CTKF) At-Large - Ruling Elder.	P	Rev. Michelle Serra (Canisteo, First) At-Large - Teaching Elder	P	Rev. Aaron Frank (Horseheads, First) Synod Commissioner
P	Rev. Bruce Incze (Arkport, First) Leader Care Committee Rep.	EX	Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) General Assembly Commissioner	P	Rev. Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) Incoming Presbytery Vice Mod. [granted voice, not vote, for this meeting]

**EX-OFFICIO (voice, not vote)**

EX	Rev. Marjorie Ackerman Presbytery Leader	P	Rev. Amy Loving Austin Stated Clerk	EX	Rev. Sabrina Slater (Spencer, CTKF) Committee on Representation
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Guests (voice not vote): Rev. David Ashby (AL), Treasurer

**CALL TO ORDER and the FIRST THINGS**

A quorum being present, Jeff Richards called the meeting to order at 9:15am, reading the Presbytery’s Purpose and Vision Statements.

Beth Newell offered devotions.

The General Council shared joys and concerns. Jeff Richards offered prayer.

The General Council VOTED to:

- **Approve** the docket for the meeting.
- **Approve** the minutes of the November 12, 2024 meeting of the General Council.
- **Approve** all submitted written reports.

**BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

- Stated Clerk
  - Please share any and all requests for docket time for the January meeting ASAP.
  - Statistics season is here, and things are changing a bit. The Stated Clerk will be communicating these changes and details on how reporting is to be done with the Presbytery later this month.

- We will vote on GA Overtures in January. A Zoom gathering to discuss the overtures will be scheduled for early January.
- Presbytery Leader – see written report
- Committee on Operations
  - We are in the process of finalizing the agreement to contract with North Presbyterian for communications/administrative services for the Presbytery.
- Treasurer – see written report
  - We are getting some end-of-year donations, but we are still running a tight budget. We are losing approximately \$6000 each month.
  - We are still working on getting insurance for Camp Whitman.
  - We are still undersubscribed about \$2000 for per capita and \$4200 for mission giving.
- Committee on Camp Whitman
  - The committee is understaffed right now (needing people from both Geneva and Genesee Valley).
  - Staffing is coming together; registration will go live on the website soon.
- Committee on Representation
  - The committee is meeting and reaching out to persons to serve. They hope to present several nominations at the January Presbytery meeting.
- Members-At-Large
  - At-Large General Council Members will bring nominations for the 2028 class of Committee on Representation to the January Council Meeting.
- Committee on Mission & Witness – see written report
  - The Youth Triennium is scheduled to take place in 2025. The committee will discuss it at their next meeting.
- Committee on Vitality – no report
- Committee on Leader Care
  - A written necrology report (including all late-submissions) will be presented to the Presbytery at the January meeting.
- Committee on Ministry
  - The COM is revising the terms of call forms, as we need to include some request for how insurance will be covered for the pastor and their family.
  - COM reminds Leader Care that we need to schedule boundaries awareness training.
  - Other training opportunities are desired (CRE, preaching, communion, etc), and the COM and CPM will need to work together to plan these.
  - A church is exploring the possibility of calling someone who has a religious employment visa. Aaron Frank suggested a contact that could help, and will share that information with the COM.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry – no report
- Synod
  - Innovation Grant Applications are due in early February.
  - There are academic grants available for students; if you know
  - Aaron has been asked to serve as the convener of the Mission & Ministries Commission beginning in January.
- Presbyterian Women
  - The Geneva Presbytery PW is currently in “hibernation”.
- General Assembly / Bills & Overtures – see note in Stated Clerk’s report
- Collaborative Committee (COM, Leader Care, Vitality) – no report

### **OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT PRESBYTERY MEETINGS**

- Moderator
  - The contract with the Presbytery Leader expires in ~5 months. The renewal of that contract is primarily dependent on finances. Her position is budgeted through December 31, 2025. We are hopeful that her contract will be able to be renewed for at least 1-1 ½ years.
  - The General Council VOTED to **extend** the contract with the Rev. Marjorie Ackerman to serve as the Presbytery Leader of the Presbytery of Geneva through December 31, 2025.

- Vice-Moderator
  - West Palmyra will provide the worship service for the January Presbytery Meeting (held via Zoom).

**OTHER BUSINESS**

- Presbytery-Wide Mission Events
  - Juana Tunison will be traveling to Puerto Rico in February. She hopes to visit a camp there to explore the possibility of organizing a youth trip to that camp in 2026.
  - The MLK Jr. Mission Event will be held in March, as that was the earliest that committee members would be available. Mission and Witness will likely rename the event.
- The Council gave thanks for those who will be rotating off of Council this year: Jeff Richards, Beth Newell, and Bruce Incze.

**NEW BUSINESS & REMINDERS**

- Workplace Sexual Harassment Prevention Training
  - *Please* remember: NYS only requires one training, and there are several to choose from when utilizing Armatus; the training Preventing Sexual Harassment: Employee Edition (New York) is the one that is required. **All Presbytery Officers and Staff need to complete this annual training by December 31, 2024.** When you have completed the training, please send a copy of your completion certificate to the Stated Clerk.
- Manual of Operations updates
  - If you or your committee has any suggested edits/updates/changes, please share those with the Stated Clerk.

**CLOSING**

Virginia Champlin will provide devotions for the January Council meeting . Everyone is asked to bring a cup of tea. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2025. Jeff Richards closed the meeting with prayer at 10:56am.

**UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DEVOTION LEADERS**

January 14, 2025	Devotions:	Virginia Champlin
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**2025 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS\***

Saturday, January 25, 2025	10:00am	Online (GA Overtures)
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**December 2024 Written Council Reports**

**COMMITTEE ON MISSION AND WITNESS NOVEMBER REPORT INFORMATION**

- Presbytery-wide Cents-Ability campaign has begun. More info following our next meeting.
- The 2025 Matthew 25 grant application has been revamped including many changes.
- Juana (Joanne) met with David Ashby for a "tutorial" on the financing of M&W funding efforts. Many thanks to David for taking the time; it was quite helpful.
- MLK service project will be held on Saturday, 8 March with hosting churches not yet finalized. Thank you Jeff Richards for taking the time to help me to better understand the mission and the process. It was greatly appreciated.

**DISCUSSION:** none

**ACTION ITEMS:** none

Respectfully submitted, Joanne Tunison, Chair

**Treasurer’s report to Council 12-10-24**

For Action: Nothing

For Information: Nov 2024 financials .xlsx are attached or will be emailed shortly; please review your committee's lines.

Our accounts at Community Bank, 11-08-24 and 12-08-24

CKGENERAL	\$6,327.04	\$90,029.97	
SAVGENERAL	\$37,830.20	\$27,830.78	
CKCAMP	\$96,202.06	\$37,128.20	
SAVCAMP	\$55,147.80	\$55,148.71	
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Total	\$195,507.10	\$210,137.66	+\$24,389.78

Funds with Presbyterian Foundation

Camp Whitman Endowment	\$52,958	
Presbytery Endowment	\$26,800	
Total	\$79,757	

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

Bryan Muecke has been working on insurance coverage since GuideOne told us they would not renew our policy.

Since the last council meeting, a \$55k transfer from CKCAMP to CKGENERAL has been made to the general checking account to cover seasonal and permanent camp payroll for the end of the year. Our permanent staff payroll is approximately \$6k per month.

Our working funds are still not improving; despite \$30k in deposits in the past week, we are otherwise down a further \$10k since November across all our accounts. I do not at present know what proportion were Mission or per capita donations. I expect (hope?) we will receive more 2024 contributions from congregations for mission and per capita in December, but realistically, some will come in January.

For Discussion: nothing

As always, have at me with questions or complaints!

David Ashby treasurer@presbyteryofgeneva.org

**From the Operations Committee:**

Quarterly thank you notes were sent with a form explaining the 2025 per capita increase

When the committee meets Wednesday (12/11) they will review the Proposal to Provide Administrative Services to the Presbytery of Geneva.

**Presbytery Leader - Report to General Council & Operations – December 2024**

Information Items:

Worship visits – Seneca Falls 11/17

Election Anxiety Sessions & Generations book studies are completed

Difficult Holidays sessions & Advent bible studies are underway

The joint presbytery discussion on Nov 22 was moved online due to weather issues. We spent the morning following up on questions/requests from the previous meeting. For the afternoon session, we split into two groups: one focused on planning joint activities, the other focused on exploring the 'bigger questions' involved in potential mergers. The next discussion will be held online on Friday, Jan 24 th at 9:30am. A zoom link will be sent closer to that date.

Action Items: None

Discussion Items: None