

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 Saturday, January 25, 2025, held virtually via Zoom.us.

GATHERING FOR SHARED WORK: OPENING BUSINESS

GATHERING

9:45 am Registration and Fellowship Time (through 10:00 am)

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 10:00 am, a quorum being present.

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	----	Frank Halstead
ANDOVER, FIRST	A - C. Mattison (CM)		MORELAND	A - Paul Yoder (CRE)	
ARKPORT, FIRST	Bruce Incze	Kelly Rose	NAPLES, TRINITY FEDERATED	A - Stu Buisch (CM)	
-----	-----	-----	NEWARK, PARK	Susan Frost	A - Anne Rogers
BATH, FIRST	EX - John Woodring	A - Dean Chatfield	OAKS CORNERS	A - Karl Warrington	
BELLONA, MEMORIAL	Amy Loving Austin	EX - Roxann Carpenter	ONTARIO CENTER, FIRST	----	
BIG FLATS, FIRST	EX - Denise Stone	Robin Fitzgerald	OVID, FEDERATED	Rob Mellgard	Judy Mellgard
BURDETT	A - Richard Evans (CRE)	A - Martha Evans	PAINTED POST, UNITED	David Preisendanz	
CANANDAIGUA, UNITED	Wade Allen (CM)	Ken Allen	PALMYRA, WESTERN	Hodong Hwang	Philip Opdycke
CANISTEO, FIRST	Michelle Serra		PENN YAN, FIRST	A - Paul Malles	A - Rob Anderson
COHOCTON, FIRST	----	EX - Linda Hodges	PHELPS, UNITED	H. Leigh Holder	A - Peg Carlson
CORNING, FIRST	Jeffrey Ugoretz	Kay Nash	PRATTSBURGH, FIRST	----	A - Lynn Dinehart
EAST PALMYRA, FIRST	----	EX - Judith Langdon	PULTENEY, FIRST	----	Mary Jane Peek
ELMIRA, FIRST	Lynn Rubier-Capron	Gregory Lamb	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	Susan Sholar
HECTOR	Daniel Russell	A - Shelly Gimbar	SHORTSVILLE, FIRST	Connie Franks (CRE)	

HORNELL, UNITED	Ted Warner (G)	Lisa Sanford	SODUS, FIRST	Gail Heimberger	A - Tom Miller
HORSEHEADS, FIRST	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	EX - Nancy J Farrell	A - Linda Hayes	WATERLOO, FIRST	Anita Milne	A - George Bassett
ITHACA, FIRST	Cynthia Weaver A - Kirianne Weaver	Brad McFall	WATKINS GLEN, FIRST	-----	John King
JASPER, UNITED	A - Brain Dieffenbacher (CM)		WESTON	----	Barry Winters
LYONS, FIRST	----	Joanne Reinhardt	WOLCOTT, FIRST	A - Walter Stuber (CM)	EX - Dolores Gingerich

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

Marjorie Ackerman (VM)	EX- Adrian Tierson (VM)			
David Ashby (AL)	Michael Capron (AL)	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)	EX- James Hicks (HR)	EX- Cynthia Huling Hummel (HR)	EX- Susan Husted (HR)	EX- Jeff Kellam (HR)
James Kerr (HR)	John Milne (HR)	EX- Tom Montgomery (HR)	Paul Rack (HR)	EX- Robert Rochelle (HR)
Barbara Schwartz (HR)	Jane Winters (HR)			

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

Jeff Richards (Elmira, North) COUNCIL CHAIR	Virginia Champlin (Geneva) COUNCIL (Presbyterian Women)	Sandra Ansley (Geneva) COUNCIL (Operations)	A - Paul Yoder (Horseheads, First) CRE (Moreland)
A - Pricilla Andrews (Rock Stream) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	A - Richard Evans (Watkins Glen, First) CRE (Burdett)	EX- 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)	EX - Don Peek (Pulteney, First) CRE (Pulpit Supply)	Connie Franks (Ontario, First) CRE (Shortsville, First)
Irene Fadden (Palmyra, Western) COUNCIL (Operations)	Joanne (Juana) Tunison (Horseheads, First) COUNCIL (Mission and Witness)		

PRESBYTERY STAFF (granted voice)

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

Mark Slomski (Youth Pastor, Canandaigua, United)
Ted Warner (Candidate Stated Supply, Hornell, United)

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

* 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:

- 9:45 AM Registration and fellowship time (through 10:00 AM)
- 10:00 AM Call to Order, Declaration of Quorum, and Opening Prayer
- 10:05 AM Introductory Business
 - Call for New Business & Approval of the Docket
 - Introduction of New Commissioners and Guests
 - Acknowledgment of the First Stewards of the Land
- 10:15 AM Consent Agenda and Clerk’s Report
- 10:20 AM Worship and the Lord’s Supper
- 10:50 AM Committee on Operations and Treasurer’s Report [TE David Ashby (VM), Treasurer]
- 11:00 AM Committee on Representation
- 11:10 AM Bills and Overtures Task Group
 - [TE Leah Ntuala (Geneva) and RE Jeff Richards (Elmira, North)]
 - 24-A — F-1.0403 Unity In Diversity
 - 24-B – G-1.0104 Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Worshiping Communities, etc.)
 - 24-C — G-2.0104b Gifts And Qualifications
 - 24-D — G-2.0504b Temporary Pastoral Relationships
 - 24-E — G-2.0504b Temporary Pastoral Relationships
 - 24-F — G-2.0610 Accommodations To Particular Circumstances
 - 24-G — 2.0901 Congregational Meeting
 - 24-H — G-3.0106 Administration of Mission
 - 24-I — G-3.0302d Relations with Synod and General Assembly
 - 24-J — G-3.0501 Composition and Responsibilities
 - 24-K — D-7.0501 Referral to Investigating Committee
 - 24-L — D-7.0902b Administrative Leave
 - 24-M — Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries
- 11:45 AM Good News from Congregations
 - * To include your news in the minutes, please email a written copy to: statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org
- 11:55 AM Resolution of Thanks
- 12:00 PM Benediction and Adjournment

INTRODUCTION OF NEW COMMISSIONERS AND GUESTS

New Commissioners and Guests were introduced.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THE FIRST STEWARDS OF THE LAND

TE David Preisendanz (Painted Post, United) offered acknowledgement of the first stewards of the land where we live and serve.

CONSENT AGENDA

The Presbytery VOTED to approve the following:

1. **Approve** the minutes of the November 19, 2024 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 December Operating Statement and Balance Statement and Treasurer's report.
4. **Elect** the following persons to these positions:
 - Permanent Judicial Commission (Class 2030)**
 - TE Susan Rack (Trumansburg, First Ulysses)
 - Committee on Mission & Witness (Class 2027)**
 - CRE Carleen Frost (Sodus, First; serving Rock Stream)
 - Committee on Ministry (Class 2027)**
 - TE John Woodring (Bath, First)
 - Committee on Ministry (Class 2026)**
 - RE Lisa Sanford (Hornell, United)
 - Committee on Operations (Class 2027)**
 - TE Barbara Schwartz (At Large)

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION FROM YOUR STATED CLERK

1. REMINDER: Congregations and Minister Members of the Presbytery are *strongly* encouraged 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://www.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. Workplace Sexual Harassment Prevention Training
Please remember: New York State *requires* all employees and volunteers (pastors, church employees, elders, deacons, trustees, youth leaders, teachers, etc) to complete Workplace Sexual Harassment Prevention Training each year. This training is available online for free via Praesidium Academy. All Congregational and Presbytery Officers and Staff need to complete this annual training by December 31, 2025. All churches are encouraged to keep a file with copies of the certificates of completion for all church staff/officers/etc. Presbytery Officers and Staff must send a copy of their training certificate to the Stated Clerk. The training module is available here: <https://www.praesidiumacademy.com/>
4. Please take advantage of the (FREE) Synod of the Northeast Webinars: <https://www.synodne.org/webinars>
5. Statistical Reporting Season is upon us! If you have any questions about submitting your congregation's statistical report, please contact me at statedclerk@presbyteryofgeneva.org.
6. The written 2024 Necrology Report will be included with the March Stated Presbytery Meeting reports.

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 H. Leigh Holder (Phelps, United) preaching and presiding.

COMMITTEE ON OPERATIONS AND TREASURER'S REPORT

TE David Ashby (AL), Treasurer, and RE Sandra Ansley (Geneva), Committee on Operations' Chairperson, presented the report.

Please review your congregation's 2024 giving on the accounts receivable "AR 2024" (tab 8) on the spreadsheet to see if our figures match yours. We will continue to receive 2024 per capita and mission a while longer.

Our accounts at Community Bank are, as of 01-10-25

CKGENERAL	\$91,105.76
SAVGENERAL	\$27,831.26
CKCAMP	\$45,004.16
SAVCAMP	\$55,149.64

Total	\$219,090.82

2025 per capita reminder

These are the correct figures for 2025

Presbytery of Geneva	\$43.92
Synod of the Northeast	\$4.25
General Assembly	<u>\$10.84</u>
Total	\$59.01

Insurance warning for churches!

The Presbytery and several churches in our presbytery have had their insurance coverage cancelled recently, sometimes with sketchy pretexts. While the cancellations are mostly with GuideOne, *all* congregations should review their policies and update them. In general, the issues have been about building coverage rather than the liability components. This is a national problem across all denominations. There are a number of ways to reconfigure policies to decrease the hardship, including decreasing coverage on the building to less than replacement costs, dropping coverage on expensive items like stained glass windows or organs, or adjusting coverage amounts, all of which should be discussed with your agent. We recommend that you review your insurance now, even if you don't anticipate issues at this point. "You never know."

Contributing to Medical Dues Assistance for Congregations Fund

If your congregation has benefited financially from the changes in Medical Insurance with the Board of Pensions and wish to assist other congregations who will suffer large increases in pastoral leaders' family coverage, please send your contribution to our financial secretary (finance@presbyteryofgeneva.org or to our PO box) marked "Medical Dues Assistance for Congregations Fund." Your sibling congregations thank you!

Individual per capita donations

Individuals who wish to contribute the equivalent of per capita may use the Presbytery's online donation link at <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBHC/home>, select the correct tile, and complete the transaction. You may also send paper checks to our financial secretary at our Post Office box, marked "individual per capita contribution," and it will be directed to the right place. Thank you!

Online Donations

Please see the information sheet about our online donation program through the Presbyterian Foundation and partner Vanco. We have Presbytery General Fund, Camp Whitman, and Individual per capita now, and additional coming shortly.

THE COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

TE Sabrina Slater (Spencer, Christ the King Fellowship) thanked the Presbytery for approving the slate of nominees included in the Consent Agenda. She also reminded the body that COR is still seeking people to serve (information

is included in the written report at the end of these minutes). She concluded the report by wishing a happy birthday to TE Hodong Huang (Palmyra, Western).

BILLS AND OVERTURES TASK GROUP

TE Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) and RE Jeffery Richards (Elmira, North) presented the Amendments to be considered by the Presbytery for approval.

Amendments 26-B, 24-D, 24-E, 24-F, 24-G, 24-H, 24-I, 24-J, 24-K, 24-L, and 24-M were presented for action as a single motion, with no discussion. All Presbytery Commissioners wanting to discuss a particular item prior to voting were given the opportunity to request that item be removed to be discussed and acted upon separately. No requests were made to remove any items, so the Presbytery proceeded to the vote.

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED (50 yes / 2 no) to **approve** the following *Book of Order* Amendments and Ecumenical Agreement:

- 24-B – G-1.0104 Other Forms of Corporate Witness (Worshiping Communities, etc.)
- 24-D — G-2.0504b Temporary Pastoral Relationships
- 24-E — G-2.0504b Temporary Pastoral Relationships
- 24-F — G-2.0610 Accommodations To Particular Circumstances
- 24-G — 2.0901 Congregational Meeting
- 24-H — G-3.0106 Administration of Mission
- 24-I — G-3.0302d Relations with Synod and General Assembly
- 24-J — G-3.0501 Composition and Responsibilities
- 24-K — D-7.0501 Referral to Investigating Committee
- 24-L — D-7.0902b Administrative Leave
- 24-M — Episcopal-Presbyterian Agreement on Local Sharing of Ministries

The Presbytery then discussed the Amendments not included in the Omnibus Motion (Amendments 24-A and 24-C)

The Presbytery first discussed proposed Amendment 24-A — F-1.0403 Unity In Diversity.

Debate/Discussion was limited to two minutes per person, alternating between those in favor and those against the proposed amendment. Following a robust debate/discussion, a motion was made and seconded to end debate.

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED to **close debate**. The Presbytery then proceeded to the vote.

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED (33 yes / 21 no) to **approve** proposed Amendment 24-A — F-1.0403 Unity In Diversity.

The Presbytery discussed proposed Amendment 24-C — G-2.0104b Gifts And Qualifications.

Debate/Discussion was limited to two minutes per person, alternating between those in favor and those against the proposed amendment. Following debate/discussion, the Presbytery proceeded to the vote.

The Presbytery of Geneva VOTED on the motion to *approve* proposed Amendment 24-C — G-2.0104b Gifts And Qualifications. The vote was 17 yes and 35 no, therefore the motion was **not approved**.

GOOD NEWS FROM CONGREGATIONS

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

TE Rob Mellgard and RE Judy Mellgard (Ovid, Federated) shared an update about the Ovid community as they manage the aftermath of a devastating fire which destroyed a significant number of businesses.

RESOLUTION OF THANKS

TE Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) 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 12:22 pm. .

Attest: Amy Loving Austin, Stated Clerk

Additional Written Reports

COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION REPORT

JANUARY 25, 2025

Dearest Presbytery of Geneva ~

It is such a joy getting to serve God in community -- and specifically in the Fingerlakes Region -- and for us, as members of the Committee on Representation -- discerning & inviting us all to serve in ways that bless us - the region God has called us to in this season -- and the fullness of God's beautiful creation right now (at such a time as this). We praise God for each of you -- especially because we cannot serve without you all serving, loving, praying, and being open-hearted with us. We are delighted to offer the names below to serve in new ways in our Presbytery & ask not only your enthusiastic votes of approval -- but your prayers for them in general, in service & for all our committees. Before you see these names (thank you y'all!) -- we are also sharing where we still have current opportunities to serve. If you know of someone with interest -- or someone who you really think it would be a blessing for them to serve (or to consider serving) -- please share names (and contact info -- and maybe even, "why!") with us! In advance -- thank you!

Committee on Representation
Presbytery of Geneva
January 2025 Presbytery Meeting

- *Committee on Vitality (Class 2025) - RE/CRE*
- *Committee on Camp Whitman (Class 2025) - TE*
- *Committee on Leader Care (Class 2027) - TE*
- *Permanent Judicial Commission (Class 2028)*

Permanent Judicial Commission (Class 2030)

- TE Susan Rack, Trumansburg

Committee on Mission & Witness (Class 2027)

- CRE Carleen Frost, Sodus (originating)/Rock Stream (serving)

Committee on Ministry (Class 2027)

- TE John Woodring, Bath

Committee on Ministry (Class 2026)

- RE Lisa Sanford, Hornell

Committee on Operations (Class 2027)

- TE Barbara Schwartz, At Large

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY REPORT
January 25, 2025 Zoom.us
[From the meetings of 12/03/25 and 01/07/25]

ITEMS FOR PRESBYTERY'S ACTION – None

ACTIONS TAKEN ON BEHALF OF THE PRESBYTERY

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Approve the Covenant Agreement for Temporary Supply Pastors between The First Presbyterian Church of Wolcott and the Reverend Walter Stuber for ½ time for the 2025 year.

Cash Salary	\$ 12,742
Housing	18,500
Pension/Medical	9,033
Travel Allowance	all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile
Study Leave	500
Study Leave Time	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Vacation	31 days, including 4 Sundays
- Approve the Request for Waiver of Term Limits for Sue Rowe, Deacon, Park Presbyterian Church for the 2025 year.
- Receive the Promoting Healthy Boundaries Agreement between Park Presbyterian, Newark, and the Rev. Susan Frost.
- Receive and approve the dissolution agreement and healthy boundaries agreement between the First Presbyterian Church of Big Flats and Rev. Denise Stone
- Receive the covenant agreement between Oaks Corners and Rev. Karl Warrington.
- Approve the Covenant for Services as a Covenanted Pastor (other than Transitional or CRE) between the United Presbyterian church of Hornell and Candidate for Ministry (Presbytery of Genesee Valley) Ted Warner for 3/8 -time service to cover the period January 1, 2025 to June 30, 2025.

Cash Salary	\$ 13,744
Housing	7,401
SECA	1,618
Retirement Fund	2,114
Travel Allowance	all church related travel at current IRS business rate
Study Leave	1,500
Study Leave Time	1 week including 1 Sundays
Vacation	14 days, including 2 Sundays
- Approve the Covenant for Services as a Covenanted Pastor (other than Transitional or CRE) between the First Presbyterian Church of Canisteo and the Rev. Michelle Serra for half time service to cover the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Cash Salary	\$ 16,135
Housing	20,000
SECA	2,764
Pension/Medical	9,614
Travel Allowance	all church related travel at current IRS business rate
Study Leave	1,500
Study Leave Time	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Vacation	4 weeks, including 4 Sundays
- Approve the Covenant for services as a Covenanted Pastor (other than Transitional or CRE) between the First Presbyterian Church of Waterloo and the Rev. Anita Milne for half-time service for the period January 1, 2025 to December 31, 2025.

Cash Salary	\$ 5,621
Housing	22,572

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| SECA | 2,157 |
| Pension/Medical | N/A |
| Travel Allowance | all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile |
| Study Leave | 3,500 |
| Study Leave Time | 2 weeks including 2 Sundays |
| Vacation | 31 days, including 4 Sundays |
- Approve the Covenant for Pastoral Services with a CRE between the Frist Presbyterian church of Shortsville and CRE Constance L. W-Franks for $\frac{3}{8}$ time for the period January 1, 2025 to January 1, 2026.

Cash Salary	\$ 12,480
Housing	9,480
SECA	N/A
Pension/Medical	N/A
Travel Allowance	all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile
Study Leave	1,500
Study Leave Time	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Vacation	31 days, including 4 Sundays
 - Approve the Covenant for Services as Transitional/Interim Pastor between The First Presbyterian Church of Watkins Glen and the Rev. Lynda Myers, a minister of the American Baptist Church Denomination for the period February 1, 2025 to January 31, 2025.

Cash Salary	\$ 40,598
Housing	15,788
SECA	4,314
Pension/Medical	N/A
Travel Allowance	all church related travel vouchered at IRS rate per mile
Study Leave	1,500
Other	7,835
Study Leave Time	2 weeks including 2 Sundays
Vacation	31 days, including 4 Sundays

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

The Committee on Ministry VOTED to:

- Appoint Susan Frost to moderate the December 15th Annual Meeting at Marion, United, following their church service.
- Receive the 12 to 18 Month Review of Western Palmyra and the Rev. Hodong Hwang.
- Receive the Clearance Interview for Rev. Lynda Myers.

GENERAL COUNCIL REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY

January 25, 2025

[From the meetings of 12/10/24 and 01/14/25]

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S ACTION: None

ITEMS FOR THE PRESBYTERY'S INFORMATION

(Presbytery Staffing)

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.

(Presbytery Meetings)

The General Council VOTED to approve the following schedule for Stated Presbytery Meetings:

- Saturday, Jan 25 at 10am (Zoom)
- Tuesday, March 25 at 7pm (Zoom)
- Tuesday, May 20 at 10 am (in person) at Camp Whitman
- Tuesday, September 23 at 10 am (hybrid)

Tuesday, November 18 at 1pm (hybrid)
Saturday, January 24, 2026 at 10:00 am (Zoom)

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
<i>Saturday</i> , January 24, 2026	10:00 am	Zoom

A NOTE FROM THE PRESBYTERY LEADER

A joyous hello to everyone and a very Happy New Year to you all!

I hope everyone enjoyed a wonderful holiday season and managed to find time for Sabbath rest and rejuvenation.

A very special thank you to those who have completed their terms of service on our committees! Your work and dedication are so greatly appreciated and we thank you for your ministries. Well done good and faithful servants!

I'd also like to welcome those who have begun a new term of service – I am looking forward to working with each of you in the coming year.

As we embark on the adventures of 2025, I'd like to share some highlights of upcoming programs:

The next online Small Church Gathering will be on Tuesday, Feb 4th at 10:30am

Officer Training for new ruling elders and deacons (offered by Susquehanna Valley) will be held on Saturday, Feb 22

The Congregational Learning Day (hosted by Genesee Valley) will be held on Saturday, March 1st
Zoom information for these events is available in the presbytery's newsletter. Be watching for additional program announcements coming up in February and March.

Happy New Year to you once again - may God continue to bless you and your ministry efforts in the coming year.

In Christ,
Marji

Ovid Fire Relief Fund

[Please Share](#)

January 23, 2025

Objectives:

- To provide a local, transparent, trusted way to donate financially for the victims of the 1/21/25 block Fire in Ovid.

Present situation:

- A number of people locally (and some a great distance from Ovid) wish to donate financially to the relief of hardships caused by the fire. A local, transparent and trustable method to accomplish this is needed.

Proposal:

- Community Bank, Ovid Branch in cooperation with the Village of Ovid, the Town of Ovid, and the Ovid Federated Church, will open an account under the Church's 501c 3 oversight.
- Contributions can be made personally at the Community Bank, Main Street Ovid, buy mail to the Bank at Community Bank, PO Box 389, Ovid NY 14521 or by mail to Ovid Federated Church PO Box 340, Ovid NY 14521. We do not have a method to receive digital transfers.
- Disbursements will be made using prepaid VISA cards to victims burned out of their apartments and to employees of the lost businesses as fairly as possible. People who have lost apartments will be paid per-person no matter the age.
- Those eligible will be determined and when they become available the prepaid VISA cards will be distributed by name directly from the Ovid Village office during its working hours.
- Distributions will take place in late February. The last distribution will take place in early July or when the fund is closed.
- Copies of bank statements will be provided to the Village of Ovid through the Mayor, to the Town of Ovid and be entered into Village, Town and Church, minutes at their monthly meetings for the duration of the fund for transparency.
- Advertising will be online and in the Community Shopper.

Advantages:

- 100% of funds donated will be distributed to victims, local known administration.
- Transparency and publicly accessible to accounting, through Ovid Village, The Town of Ovid, and the Ovid Federated Church.
- 501c 3 support from the Ovid Federated Church.
- No administrative or other deductions will be made by any participating organizations.

Disadvantages:

- Assuring fairness only to employees out of work and the residents who lost their apartments will need to be based on official records from the agencies involved.

Action Recommended:

- Create the fund at Community Bank.
- Advertise the fund through all available means online and in print.
- Make a first distribution in late February and a final distribution in July.