

**GENERAL COUNCIL of THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA**

**Minutes of Meeting**

February 11, 2025 ~ 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	Rev. Anita Milne (Waterloo, First) Chair, General Council	P	CRE Connie Franks (Shortsville) Presbytery Moderator	P	Rev. Evan Hansen (Elmira, North) Presbytery Vice-Moderator
	Vitality Committee	P	Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva) Presbyterian Women Rep.	EX	Rev. David Preisendanz (Painted Post, United) Camp Whitman Committee Rep.
EX	Rev. H. Leigh Holder (Phelps) Committee on Ministry (COM).	P	Elder Sandra Ansley (Geneva) Operations Committee Rep.	EX	Elder Joanne (Juana) Tunison (Lares, PR, Iglesia Presbiteriana) Mission & Witness Committee Rep.
P	Elder Kerm Bossard (Spencer, CTKF) At-Large - Ruling Elder.	P	Rev. Michelle Serra (Canisteo, First) At-Large - Teaching Elder	EX	Rev. Aaron Frank (Horseheads, First) Synod Commissioner
	Leader Care Committee Rep.	EX	Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) General Assembly Commissioner		

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

P	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, Anita called the meeting to order at 9:15am, reading the Presbytery’s Purpose and Vision Statements.

The General Council shared joys and concerns. Anita offered prayer.

The General Council VOTED to:

- **Approve** the docket for the meeting.
- **Approve** the minutes of the January 14, 2025 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 and all written reports for the March meeting ASAP.
  - Statistics season is winding down.
- Presbytery Leader – see written report

- The multi-presbytery conversations continue. There is energy around CPM and CRE training/work, but other issues seem to be slow-going.

## **DEVOTIONS**

Evan Hansen offered devotions, featuring Kate Bowler's *Have a Beautiful, Terrible Day!* (available here: <https://katebowler.com/books/have-a-beautiful-terrible-day/#pre-order> ).

## **BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL (part 2)**

- 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.
- Treasurer – see written report
  - We are doing ok – not great, but ok.
- Committee on Camp Whitman – see written report
- Committee on Representation
  - The committee will present a slate to approve at the January meeting.
- Members-At-Large
  - Michelle Serra raised the issue of clergy isolation. It would be a great benefit to the Presbytery and our pastoral leaders for there to be a collegial group that met regularly.
  - At-Large General Council Members need to bring nominations for the 2028 class of Committee on Representation to the March Council Meeting.
- Committee on Mission & Witness – no report
- Committee on Vitality – no report
- Committee on Leader Care
  - We need to identify a representative from Leader Care to serve on the General Council.
- Committee on Ministry
  - Council will consider the policy/application for the Insurance Assistance Fund at the March meeting.
  - It is unclear how many churches will be requesting support. The Council suggests that the COM church liaisons reach out to their assigned churches to discover 1) who plans to request insurance assistance funds, 2) who plans to donate to the assistance fund, and 3) what questions they have about the assistance fund.
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry
  - They are in conversation with area presbyteries to possibly collaborate on training and other work.
- Synod – no report
- Presbyterian Women – “hibernation”.
- General Assembly / Bills & Overtures – no report
- Collaborative Committee (COM, Leader Care, Vitality) – no report

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

- Moderator
- Vice-Moderator
  - We are looking for churches to host the 2025 meetings.
  - It would be especially good to invite a “small church” to host in September.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

- Presbytery-Wide Mission Events

## **NEW BUSINESS & REMINDERS**

- Triennium
  - Plans are in the works. Area presbyteries are working together to share travel expenses. Funds are available to assist with travel / participation costs. There is some information in the Presbytery Newsletter.
- 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, 2025.** When you have completed the training, please send a copy of your completion certificate to the Office Admin.*
- Manual of Operations updates
  - If you or your committee has any suggested edits/updates/changes, please share those with the Stated Clerk.

### **CLOSING**

David Preisendanz will provide devotions for the March Council meeting.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 11, 2025.

Anita closed the meeting with prayer at 10:52am.

### **UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DEVOTION LEADERS**

March 11, 2025

Devotions:

David Preisendanz

### **2025 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS\***

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)

## **February 2025 Written Council Reports**

### **Camp Whitman Committee**

- New this year - Holiday Weekend Family Camps (Memorial Day, Independence Day, and Labor Day weekends) for all ages and all family types.
- Also new, two additional weeks of Pathfinder camps for adults with special needs. The 4 sessions are scheduled for the weeks of June 15, June 22, July 20, and July 27.
- Executive Director Bryan Muecke is willing to do a short (5 mins or less) greeting to your congregation on a Sunday this winter and spring. It can be in person or via Zoom. Whichever is easier best for you.
- Facility Improvement projects this year include handwashing stations at each cabin unit, a new pottery/crafting grotto, completing electrical service to each cabin so that there is an outlet and light in every sleeping area.
- Two benefit dinners will be held in 2025. On May 10th the first dinner will be held in Chili near Rochester. The second dinner will be held September 13th at North Church in Elmira. Keep a look out for more info on both events.

### **Presbytery Leader**

Information Items:

Leaderwise Boundary Training 1/14-1/15

Worship visit at Phelps 2/2

C-Clef Meeting with Susquehanna Valley 1/22

Joint Presbytery Staff Discussion 1/23

Joint Presbytery Group Discussion 1/24

Dealing with Conflict Training – series for COM members Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10

Online Small Church Gathering 2/4  
Vacation - January 11-21

I've contacted the CPM chairs from Genesee Valley and Susquehanna Valley to join us in developing similar policies for CRE processes and training requirements – a joint meeting is currently being planned. A Lenten series for small churches is being developed – details will be in the March newsletter.

Upcoming Events

Joint Presbytery Discussion – Thursday, Feb 27, 9:30am

Action Items: none

Discussion Items: none

**From the Treasurer:**

Treasurer's report to Council 02-11-25

For Information: January 2025 financials .xlsx are attached or will be emailed shortly; please review

Our accounts at Community Bank

	<u>01-10-25</u>	<u>02-06-25</u>	
CKGENERAL	\$91,105.76	\$81,478.92	
SAVGENERAL	\$27,831.73	\$27,831.26	
CKCAMP	\$45,004.16	\$48,419.57	
SAVCAMP	\$55,149.64	\$55,150.58	
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Total	\$219,090.82	\$212,880.80	-\$6210.02

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 and Ray Crosby-Willis have been working on insurance coverage applications since GuideOne told us they would not renew our policy. At this point, we have continuing coverage with GuideOne (expensive) while we are getting Brotherhood, at which point we will cancel the GuideOne policy and move to them.

Since the last meeting, we have, in fact received significant contributions from congregations, which definitely helps. It appears there has been more in January for 2024. We also received a \$35k per capita bill from Louisville, which we will pay quarterly. We prepaid our Synod per capita for the discount. Our working balances remain narrow. Our year-round payroll is approximately \$6k per month. We still have a credit with the Board of Pension for a now-corrected error in the past.

I have been in contact with the Mission and Witness Committee, who wanted reassurance that this year they will be able to grant their budgeted mission funds. I believe they will be able to, and they will be doing their grants on a more staggered basis than 2024, which will help.

The hearing on the workplace harassment case from several years ago has finally been scheduled. Our attorney, Carl Steinbrenner, is representing us and discussing options with several of us in leadership roles. We have another legal bill for an annoying matter concerning the Lodi sale.

Our online donation page is up and running with several categories as suggested by Council. Go to <https://secure.myvanco.com/L-ZBHC/home>. We need to publicize it widely.

Plans are being made for the 2024 audit with Heveron.

Mission challenge and per capita letters were sent to congregations by Irene Fadden and Gretchen Duffy, the officeadmin@ person.

As always, have at me with questions or complaints!

David Ashby

[treasurer@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:treasurer@presbyteryofgeneva.org)

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