

Next Council Meeting: February 11, 2025 (Zoom.us) – 9:15 a.m.

GENERAL COUNCIL of THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA

Minutes of Meeting

January 14, 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. |
| P | Rev. H. Leigh Holder (Phelps) 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. |
| P | 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 |
| | Leader Care Committee Rep. | P | Rev. Leah Ntuala (Seneca Falls, First) General Assembly Commissioner | | |

EX-OFFICIO (voice, not vote)

| | | | | | |
|----|---|---|--|---|--|
| EX | Rev. Marjorie Ackerman Presbytery Leader | P | Rev. Amy Loving Austin Stated Clerk | P | Rev. Sabrina Slater (Spencer, CTKF) Committee on Representation |
|----|---|---|--|---|--|

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.

Virginia Champlin offered devotions, .

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 December 10, 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 and all written reports for the January meeting by Friday, January 17th.
 - Statistics season is in full swing.

- We will vote on GA Overtures in January. A Zoom gathering to discuss the overtures is taking place from 1-3pm on January 14th.
- I met with Gretchen earlier this month. She is working hard to get up to speed with everything. I encourage us all to be *patient*.
- I am hoping that there has been some response from our IT guy about the Presbytery website...
- Presbytery Leader – see written report
- Committee on Operations
 - 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, .
- Treasurer – see written report
 - The written report is an end-of-year report. We are still about \$20,000 under for per capita and about \$18,000 under for mission giving; this isn't great, but it does appear to be improving slowly as (hopefully) congregational stress/worry begins to calm down.
 - Conversations with neighboring presbyteries continue. We are hopeful that partnerships will grow and develop for the benefit of all.
 - The camp is working on securing new insurance coverage, which will be more expensive (but, hopefully, more reliable/trustworthy).
 - We have the enabled electronic giving for the presbytery!
- 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
 - 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
 - If every church gave \$25 more each month, it would
- Committee on Vitality – no report
 - We need to identify a
- Committee on Leader Care
 - A written necrology report (including all late-submissions) needs to be presented to the Presbytery at the January meeting (in the meeting documents as a written report - no docket time).
- Committee on Ministry
 - Council will consider the policy/application for the
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry – no report
- Synod
 - Innovation Grant Applications are due in early February.
 - Scholarships for coaching or educational opportunities are available for ministers.
- 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
 - May 9-10, 2025, we hope there will be a retreat to get to know other leaders in our surrounding presbyteries
 - The 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)

- Vice-Moderator
 - We are looking for churches to host the 2025 meetings.

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.

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, 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

Evan Hansen will provide devotions for the February Council meeting.
The next meeting is scheduled for February 11, 2025.
Anita closed the meeting with prayer at 10:28am.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DEVOTION LEADERS

| | | |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|
| February 11, 2025 | Devotions: | Evan Hansen |
|-------------------|------------|-------------|

2025 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS*

| | | |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|
| Saturday, January 25, 2025 | 10:00am | Online (GA Overtures) |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------------|

January 2025 Written Council Reports

Camp Whitman Committee reports that plans are underway for two fundraiser dinners in 2025:

- 1) April, Chili Presbyterian Church (Genesee Valley Presbytery). This event is still tentative.
- 2) September, North Presbyterian Church, Elmira.

Plans are proceeding for the 2025 summer camp schedule.

Respectfully submitted, David Preisendanz

Presbytery Leader - Report to Operations and General Council – January 2025 Information Items:

- Generations Book Study, Advent Bible Study and Difficult Holidays series are complete
- Worship visit at Phelps 12/15

Upcoming Events

- Joint Presbytery Discussion – Friday, Jan 24, 9:30am
- Dealing With Conflict Training - series for COM members – Jan 27, Feb 3, Feb 10 Online Small Church Gathering – Tuesday, Feb 4, 10:30am
- Officer Training for new ruling elders and deacons (offered by Susquehanna Valley) – Saturday, Feb 22
- Congregational Learning Day (hosted by Genesee Valley – Saturday, March 1 Other program plans are currently being finalized for February and March. As conversations continue with Susquehanna Valley, I plan to start offering CRE training courses within the next few months.

Action Items: none

Discussion Items: none

From the Vice Moderator:

Possible dates for 2025 – 26 meetings

Jan 25, 10am zoom already set Saturday

March 25, 7pm zoom Tuesday

May 20, 10 am in person possibly Camp

September 23, 10 am hybrid Tuesday

November 18, 1pm hybrid Tuesday

January 24, 2026 10:00 am zoom Saturday