

Next Council Meeting: April 8, 2025 (Zoom.us) – 9:15 a.m.

GENERAL COUNCIL of THE PRESBYTERY OF GENEVA

Minutes of Meeting

March 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	EX	Elder Virginia Champlin (Geneva) Presbyterian Women Rep.	P	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.	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
P	Elder Donna Colvin (Pulteney, First) Leader Care Committee Rep.	EX	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	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 with prayer.

David Preisendanz 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 February 11, 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 by March 19th.
 - Statistics season is basically done. Thanks be to God.
 - God willing, the policy/application for the Insurance Assistance Fund will go to the Presbytery at the March meeting. If it is not ready by next week, it will go to the May meeting.

- Presbytery Leader – see written report
- Committee on Operations
 - There are some property improvements in process at Camp. The Camp Director is working hard to find new partners (ie Rotary, etc.).
 - We are scheduling various fundraisers.
- Treasurer – see written report
 - A settlement regarding a complaint made circa 2022 is being considered by the Trustees.
 - Churches are sending in their pledges and per capita.
- Committee on Camp Whitman
 - We are 4 people short on staff, so please get the word out that there are positions available.
- Committee on Representation – no report
- Members-At-Large
 - They are working on finding people to serve.
- Committee on Mission & Witness
 - Triennium is this Summer! We do have some funds to support people to attend. We need people to spread the word that this event is happening! There are several area Presbyteres working together to coordinate things.
- Committee on Vitality – no report
- Committee on Leader Care
 - The committee is short one member.
 - The committee is trying to reorganize, after Bruce and Connie have ended their terms.
- Committee on Ministry
 - We may have someone asking to join the Presbytery soon (they would be joining as an At Large member).
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry
 - They are in conversation with area presbyteries to possibly collaborate on training and other work. These discussions have been going well, with some actual movement toward working together.
 - Something to consider: What do we hope to accomplish with our CRE program?
- Synod
 - There are scholarships available for students.
- Presbyterian Women – “hibernation”.
- General Assembly / Bills & Overtures – no report
- Collaborative Committee (COM, Leader Care, Vitality) – no report

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO IMPLEMENT PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

- Moderator
 - The retreat coming up in May is looking good. Please try to be there!
- Vice-Moderator
 - We are looking for churches to host the 2025 meetings.
 - Penn Yan will provide food for the May meeting. Colin Pritchard (Geneva) will coordinate worship.
 - It would be especially good to invite a “small church” to host in September.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Presbytery-Wide Mission Events – no report

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

Donna Colvin will provide devotions for the April Council meeting.
The next meeting is scheduled for April 8, 2025.
Anita closed the meeting with prayer at 10:10am.

UPCOMING COUNCIL MEETINGS AND DEVOTION LEADERS

April 8, 2025

Devotions:

Donna Colvin

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)

March 2025 Written Council Reports

Presbytery Leader

Information Items:

- The 'Dealing with Conflict' training for COM is complete and was very well received. I've been encouraged to develop a way to use that information into a format that allows for 'deeper work' with congregations and am currently exploring ways to do that.
- I've also been working closely with COM as they address continuing conflict situations.
- Joint presbytery work continues: I've had several meetings exploring CRE training possibilities, policy updates, and ways to work with Book of Order requirements. I've also started talking with pastors to begin tracking down potential resources for individual course options.
- Those working on the joint activities have completed the Congregational Learning Day event (3/1). I've also been working with them as they finish up plans for the pastors retreat in May at Camp Whitman.

Action Items: None

Discussion Items: None