

**MINUTES OF THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE
STATED MEETING – June 9, 2020
Held Online Via Zoom**

The Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse held a stated meeting on Saturday, June 9, 2020 via Zoom.

Prior to the start of the meeting, Resource Presbytery Karen Chamis and Stated Clerk Ben worked with those needing technology assistance and offered training on how to vote, raise hands, etc.

GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 PM by Moderator Rev. Tom Oak. Stated Clerk Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye declared a quorum present and Rev. Oak opened the meeting with prayer.

The roll was taken by registration via the Zoom invitation. There were 19 minister members, 1 Commissioned Lay Pastor, and 33 ruling elders (27 ruling elder commissioners plus 6 ruling elders with vote due to office) for a total of 53 enrolled with vote. The registration document can be found in *APPENDIX I*

Moderator Oak called on Resource Presbyter and Stated Clerk to offer a quick overview of Zoom and online meeting process/etiquette.

First-time elder commissioners were introduced and welcomed.

Moderator Oak called on the Stated Clerk to offer any Corresponding Members for seating by the body. Stated Clerk Fitzgerald-Fye put forth Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly, would need seated to commission our commissioners to the 224th General Assembly later in the meeting. Penny James was also seated to speak to issues related to Vanderkamp.

Moderator Oak acknowledged and welcomed guests and observers.

Moderator Oak called for Good News reports from the presbytery. Beth Dubois, Nancy Wind, and Elizabeth Lyman offered items of good news from around the presbytery.

WORSHIP OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

The worship service for today took the form of a video presentation highlighting the ongoing work of our churches and leaders in a time of pandemic.

WORK OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

Moderator Oak asked for a motion to approve the docket. The Stated Clerk asked that the commissioning of the 224th General Assembly Commissioners be added to the docket immediately following the installation of our new moderator. A motion to approve the docket as amended was made, seconded, and **VOTED APPROVED**.

The minutes of the February 15, 2020 Stated Meeting were **VOTED APPROVED** as submitted with no additions or corrections.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Moderator Oak called for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda, noting that items could be removed at this time. The report of the Ecumenical Camping Association was removed from the Consent Agenda at the request of several commissioners.

Motion to approve the amended Consent Agenda was made, seconded, and **VOTED APPROVED**. By voting to approve the Consent Agenda, Presbytery **received** a variety of reports for information which will be documented as appendices to these minutes. There were no action items in the consent agenda requiring Presbytery's approval.

The Moderator called for New Business, but no items were submitted.

LEADERSHIP TEAM REPORT

The Moderator called on Elder Lynn Jacques, Chair of the Leadership Team.

Elder Jacques offered two motions brought from the Leadership Team. On advice of the Stated Clerk, these motions were not combined and were voted on separately.

First, Elder Jacques moved:

The Presbytery may meet by electronic means if all members have reasonable notice of the electronic meeting and the ability to discuss and vote on business items and that this provision be added as the fourth paragraph under Article V of the Bylaws.

The motion was voted on and approved by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the presbytery.

Second, Elder Jacques moved:

Move to add the word "Presbytery" to Standing Rule 4.01 so that it reads, "Meetings of the Presbytery, the Leadership Team, Work Groups, Committees, and Commissions may be conducted by electronic means, providing there is opportunity for simultaneous aural communication and the usual standards for providing notice of the meeting are followed.

The motion was **voted on and approved** by a $\frac{3}{4}$ majority of the presbytery.

Presbytery received the following informational report from the Leadership Team as part of the **Consent Agenda**:

The remaining items related to the Leadership Team Report can be found in the approved Consent Agenda received by the presbytery and included in the appendices of these minutes.

REPORT OF THE RESOURCE PRESBYTER

Report submitted in writing and received in the approved Consent Agenda.

REPORT OF THE STATED CLERK

Report submitted in writing and received in the approved Consent Agenda.

REPORT OF THE ASSOCIATE STATED CLERK

Report submitted in writing and received in the approved Consent Agenda.

REPORT OF THE HUMAN RESOURCES WORK GROUP

Rev. Lorrie Cooney moved the following on behalf of the Human Resources Work Group:

HR moves to dissolve the Associate Stated Clerk for Administration position and to merge the responsibilities of that position with those of the Stated Clerk effective June 9th and to approve the new job description for the position of Stated Clerk. Further, that Article IV of the Presbytery Bylaws and Articles 2.07 and 2.08 of the Standing Rules be amended to reflect this change. HR also moves to re-elect Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye to a two-year term as Stated Clerk of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse.

The new Stated Clerk Job Description is included in the appendices of these minutes.

After some discussion and questions, a motion was made to Call the Question.

The motion to Call the Questions was **APPROVED**

The motion for the Human Resources Work Group was voted and **APPROVED**.

Following this vote, a moment of recognition for Elder Linda Russell's service to the presbytery was held with testimonies related to her exemplary service to and on behalf of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse.

TREASURER'S REPORT – Elder Gordie Howard

Presbytery received the following financial reports for review as part of the Consent Agenda. Reports will be filed for audit:

1. Treasurer's Report
2. Per Capita Report, April 2020
3. Statement of Financial Position by Fund, April 2020
4. Presbytery 2020 Budget, April 30, 2020

FINANCE AND PROPERTY WORK GROUP

The full report of the Finance and Property Work Group was received in the approved consent agenda and it included in the appendices of these minutes:

Two motions were brought before the presbytery on behalf of the Finance and Property Work Group relating specifically to work around the status and future of Vanderkamp. With the offering of the first motion, discussion regarding the Ecumenical Camp Association and the status of Vanderkamp, a significant discussion and requests to offer statements arose. As a result, and as a recommendation from the Stated Clerk, a motion was made to remove these motions from the Finance and Property Report and add them to new business later in the docket for the sake of time and to give them due attention. The motion was seconded and **APPROVED**.

COM WORK GROUP

The report of the COM Work Group was received in the approved consent agenda and is in the appendices of these minutes.

NOMINTING COMMITTEE/WORK GROUP REPORT

Karen Green, on behalf of the Nominating Committee put forward the following names for vote:

Moderator: Teaching Elder Stephanie Weaver, Robinson Elmwood - 2022

Leadership Team: Ruling Elder Pearl Fischer, Isaiah's Table - 2023

There were no nominations from the floor, motion made and **APPROVED** to close nominations and these nominations were voted and **APPROVED**.

The following members of Leadership Team have offered to serve an additional 3 year term, and will also be in the class of 2023:

Ruling Elder Lynn Jacques, East Syracuse
Teaching Elder Diane Monger, MAL
Teaching Elder James Moore, First Auburn
Ruling Elder Linda Van Buskirk, Scipioville

There were no nominations from the floor, motion made and **APPROVED** to close nominations and these nominations were voted and **APPROVED**.

COM Workgroup:

Ruling Elder Cindy Clift, Robinson Elmwood
Teaching Elder Elizabeth Lyman, Pebble Hill

There were no nominations from the floor, motion made and **APPROVED** to close nominations and these nominations were voted and **APPROVED**.

Ruling Elder Gordie Howard has agreed to serve an additional year as the Presbytery Treasurer.

Synod Assembly: Ruling Elder Sharye Skinner, Cazenovia

There were no nominations from the floor, motion made and **APPROVED** to close nominations and these nominations were voted and **APPROVED**.

Chair of Nominating Committee: Teaching Elder Tom Oak, MAL

Vice-Chair of Nominating Committee: Ruling Elder Linda Russell, Westminster, Auburn

There were no nominations from the floor, motion made and **APPROVED** to close nominations and these nominations were voted and **APPROVED**.

These actions end the term as co-chairs and members of the Nominating Committee of both Karen Green and Nancy Wind. The presbytery thanks them for their service.

INSTALLATION OF NEW MODERATOR

Moderator Oak presided over the installation of Rev. Stephanie Weaver as the new Moderator of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse

After the installation, Rev. Oak offered a statement of thanks for being allowed to serve and of hope for the future of the presbytery and its new leadership.

COMMISSIONING OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY COMMISSIONERS

Rev. Cindy Kohlmann, Co-Moderator of the 223rd General Assembly, joined us to preside over the service of commissioning for our commissioners to the 224th General Assembly.

Moderator Weaver offered words of welcome and invited Co-Moderator Kohlmann to offer some insights on the challenges and opportunities presented by the unique, online nature of the 224th General Assembly. Co-Moderator Kohlmann offered greetings from the Co-Moderators of the 223rd General Assembly and words of encouragement and of recognition that the General Assembly will present some

challenges and even more opportunity as we pave a new way forward by holding the first denomination wide assembly in the online format. Co-Moderator Kohlmann also offered words of our unity as the Body of Christ and the ongoing work of justice undertaken by the General Assembly.

Rev. Kohlmann presided over the commissioning service for:
Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye, Teaching Elder Commissioner
Elder William Newell, Ruling Elder Commissioner
David Seitz, Young Adult Advisory Delegate

OTHER BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

New Worshipping Communities, Ruling Elder Karen Fay

Motion to concur with Isaiah's Table selection of leadership for this year:

President – Michael Sponsler
Vice President – Lauri Morton
Treasurer – Leisa Fischer
Secretary – Karen Fay
Board Member – Nita Cleland

Motion was voted and **APPROVED**.

Pursuant to the above actions related to both the report of the Ecumenical Camping Association and the Finance and Property Work Group Motions, these items have been added to this portion of the docket for consideration.

Moderator Weaver called for the consideration of the Ecumenical Camping Association report.

ECUMENICAL CAMP ASSOCIATION REPORT TO THE PRESBYTERY OF CAYUGA-SYRACUSE

This is the initial report of elders Victor Jenkins and Robert Davenport to inform the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse of recent ECA activity.

The following excerpt from the April 27, 2020 minutes of the Leadership Team is a portion of the Finance and Property Work Group report regarding the matter of presbytery representation on the ECA and CNYPC boards, commonly referred to as the "Vanderkamp Board."

Bob then introduced the matter of presbytery representation on the boards of the Ecumenical Camp Association (ECA) and the Central New York Presbyterian Conference Center (CNYPC) with a recommendation that both Bob and Victor Jenkins be appointed to the two boards. To provide context, Bob reviewed the history of events leading to this recommendation.

The ECA board (commonly referred to as the Vanderkamp board) is comprised of three representatives each from the three stakeholder judicatories responsible for the program operations of Vanderkamp Center, namely the presbyteries of Utica and Cayuga-Syracuse and the Upstate New York Synod of ELCA. The CNYPC board is comprised of representatives from only the presbyteries of Utica and Cayuga-Syracuse and is the owner of the real estate. For a number of years, presbytery persons elected to one board were automatically elected to serve on the other board for the same three-year term of service.

During discussions held by leadership representatives of the three judicatories beginning in the Fall of 2019 and in the months following regarding the viability of Vanderkamp, it was posited that each judicatory appoint or elect two new persons each to replace their current board

representatives as soon as the way be clear with the objective of bringing fresh eyes and particular skill sets to assess the assets and liabilities of Vanderkamp Center, address the systemic issues which have been so challenging to the financial stability of Vanderkamp, and make recommendations regarding the future of Vanderkamp Center.

At the February 2020 meeting of Presbytery, elders Bob Davenport and Victor Jenkins, both members of the Finance and Property Work Group, were elected to represent Cayuga-Syracuse on the six-member Vanderkamp joint task force. Following this February meeting, and subsequent to the other judicatories selecting their representatives to this task force, each judicatory's primary leader contacted their ECA board representatives to apprise them of the development of the task force. At their March 26, 2020 meeting, the ECA board moved, in part, "that as of close of business April 30, 2020, the Ecumenical Camp Association doing business as Vanderkamp in its current configuration ceases to exist..." The ECA board went on to discuss "dissolution" and decided to "wait to do so until instructed by the judicatories."

On the evening of April 17, 2020 the ECA board and the six-member task force (often referred to as the Team of Six) met together via Zoom in what was intended to be a getting-to-know-you meeting with the task force seeking background information from the ECA board and offering to assist the board as advisors in this time of transition. Unbeknown to Bob and Vic and the task force, and contrary to the ECA board's stated objectives in their minutes from March 26, the only action the ECA board was prepared to engage in on April 17 was to present a motion for the entire ECA board to resign immediately and leave the future of Vanderkamp in the hands of the task force and the three judicatories. The motion passed. The ECA board members resigned, closed the meeting, and left the Zoom call, leaving the task force to talk among themselves. Both Bob and Vic were surprised by this early motion. The task force had been prepared for a transition on April 30, the date indicated by the ECA board in their minutes of March 26. After the April 17 Zoom call the task force was faced with having to step up immediately in order that Vanderkamp Center not become more vulnerable than it already was.

In view of the above sequence of events, the Finance and Property Work Group presented the following motion to the Leadership Team:

"In consideration of the fact that Presbytery's current representatives on the Ecumenical Camp Association Board and the Central New York Presbyterian Conference Center Board have resigned effective April 17, 2020, the Finance and Property Work Group moves that the Leadership Team of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse appoint elder Victor Jenkins and elder Robert Davenport to both the Ecumenical Camp Association Board and the Central New York Presbyterian Conference Center Board for three-year terms retroactively effective as of April 17, 2020."

Chairperson Lynn Jacques reminded the team that a second was not required and opened the floor for discussion of the motion. Elder Jackie Murphy, chair of the Camping Ministry Work Group, participated in the April 17 Zoom meeting, not as a board member but as a guest and advocate for Vanderkamp, and shared that the experience of the meeting was heart wrenching for her. Bob acknowledged that the ECA board has been in a difficult position regarding the status of Vanderkamp for some time and expressed empathy for those in our presbytery with strong emotional ties to Vanderkamp. Ben asked if the task force had met subsequent to April 17 and Bob replied yes. Ben also asked for additional clarification on the status of the two boards and how presbytery representatives are ordinarily elected or appointed. Linda Russell and Gordie Howard shared that the Leadership Team, acting on behalf of Presbytery, has made appointments to the Vanderkamp boards in the past. Ben expressed concern that while our

current bylaws permit the Leadership Team to make these appointments, he had reservations about the bylaws. Karen Chamis pointed out that in New York State individual ECA board members can resign but they cannot unilaterally dissolve the board. She further pointed out that these boards need to be kept active in order to be able to deal with pending insurance matters and keep presbytery and the other judicatories protected.

*There being no further discussion, the chair called for the vote and the motion was **voted APPROVED.***

Bob then gave a brief recap of actions that the task force has taken up in the past couple weeks. Chairperson Jacques asked if camp operations would be shutting down if it were not for COVID-19. Bob explained that when presbytery's Administrative Commission made their decision in December when it recommended that camp operations continue and the campgrounds not be sold for two years, the AC was not in full possession of the data regarding demographics and markets or the camp's full financial picture for the past five years and thus did not have a complete picture of the status of Vanderkamp operations. In addition, our two partner judicatories stated unequivocally that they wanted out of Vanderkamp; one partner was on the record eight years ago as wanting to withdraw. Thus, COVID-19, with all its accompanying liabilities for a camp, was the final stamp on the inevitability of this development.

Subsequent to Presbytery's action in February appointing Bob and Vic to the Vanderkamp task force "Team of Six," our partner judicatories selected their representatives so that the Team of Six included:

Victor Jenkins	Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
Bob Davenport	Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
Shelly Coe	Presbytery of Utica
Heather Nunniker	Presbytery of Utica
Grey May	Upstate New York Synod of ELCA
Kathy Hill	Upstate New York Synod of ELCA

Subsequent to the resignations of the former ECA board members on April 17, the Leadership Team, at their April 27, 2020 meeting appointed Bob and Vic as new representatives of Cayuga-Syracuse to serve as members of the ECA board. Our partner judicatories have taken similar measures so that the six persons listed above could become functioning members of the ECA board.

As a newly constituted ECA board, the six members have elected the following as officers of the ECA board: President: Greg May; Vice-President: Bob Davenport; Treasurer: Shelly Coe; Secretary: Heather Nunniker. The new ECA board has met several times by video or conference call, met with the directors, and toured the camp.

Since the events of late April, the new ECA board has been working on a number of issues related to the status of Vanderkamp, including:

- Determining outstanding liabilities of Vanderkamp/ECA such as Director's back pay, return of collected rental deposits, insurance, utilities, solar contract etc.
- Researching and reviewing the solar contract(s) to ascertain if they are an asset or liability
- Reviewing the insurance policy to bring coverage up to date and reduce premiums
- Planning for the security of the grounds and buildings
- Solving a flooding issue caused by a beaver dam at the lake

- Resolving cash flow issues inasmuch as the total cash assets of the ECA as of April 17th 2020, per the Directors, was \$740.02.

Respectfully submitted,

Elder Bob Davenport
Elder Vic Jenkins

Two motions were considered from the Finance and Property Work Group:

Motion: the Finance and Property Work Group moves that Presbytery hereby elect Robert Davenport and Victor Jenkins to three-year terms on the Ecumenical Camp Association board and the Central New York Presbyterian Conference Center effective beginning April 17, 2020.

Discussion of this motion included clarification of the resignations related to the camp board by corresponding member Penny James and various questions and comments related to the motion and to the report of the ECA. A motion to call the question was made **VOTED and APPROVED**, the motion was put before the body **VOTED and APPROVED**.

Moderator Weaver also reminded those engaged in discussion that there would be a special meeting of the presbytery to discuss Vanderkamp specifically.

A motion was made to table discussion of the ECA Report until the special meeting related to Vanderkamp. The motion was seconded. **VOTED and APPROVED**.

Motion: the Finance and Property Work Group moves that the Presbytery approve expanding the use of the \$50,000 identified for the hiring of appropriate professional personnel to help Robert Davenport and Victor Jenkins resolve Vanderkamp issues to also include depositing monies into the ECA account, in collaboration with our two judicatory partners, in an effort to avoid potentially more costly and damaging liabilities in the months ahead. These monies would be handled as a loan to the ECA with the promise, secured in a legal note, that those monies would be recovered by Cayuga-Syracuse first before property assets are liquidated and distributed among the three partner judicatories.

Discussion of this motion included questions related to the total amount cited in the motion and an update of the financial status and implications by Elder Bob Davenport. Elder Linda Russel, one of the individuals tasked with providing information, clarified the distribution of the \$50,000 dollars and explained that \$30,000 of the total was a loan to the ECA Board and that only part of the total would be reimbursable to the presbytery. **VOTED and APPROVED**.

THE PEOPLE OF GOD DEPART

With no further business before the body, Moderator Weaver called on Resource Presbyterian Chamis to dismiss us with a hymn. Resource Presbyterian Karen Chamis introduce the hymn, "With Unity of Heart and Mind," composed by Alan Beyel.

The final, permanent minutes of this Assembly will also include the reports and handouts distributed for this meeting.

Minutes submitted and attested by:

Rev. Ben Fitzgerald-Fye, Stated Clerk

ROLL:

The roll for this meeting was taken by electronic registration.

Total present and eligible to vote: 60 Voting Members Present

Last Name	First Name	What is your status (Minister, Elder, Commissioner, Corresponding Member, Guest, Ex Officio)?	What church or organization do you represent?
Albee	Charles	elder commissioner	Chittenango
Anderson	Garrett	minister	Liverpool First Presbyterian Church
anderson	mary	minister	Weedsport Pres
Anson	Lorrie	Minister	Otisco/Taunton
Armstrong	Robert	Elder Commissioner	Amboy Belle Isle United Church
Baums	Rev.Roosevelt	Minister	Amboy Belle Isle United Church
Brown	Marian	Elder Commissioner	First Presbyterian Church of Scipioville
Buckshot	Sarah	Staff	Staff
Chamis	Karen	Minister	Presbytery
Chapman	Donna	Commissioned Ruling Elder	Whitelaw Presbyterian Church
Collins	Ryan	Ruling Elder	Onondaga Hill
Cooney	Lorrie	Minister	New Hope
Crawford	Rita Crawford	Elder Commissioner	First Presbyterian Church, Mexico
Davenport	Robert	Elder/Leadership Team	Leadership Team/Westminster Auburn
Dilmore	Roger	Elder	Westminster, Auburn
DuBois	Beth	Minister	South Valley Presbyterian Church
Eidt	Mary	Elder	Northminster Presbyterian Church, North Syracuse, NY
Even	Linda	Minister	United church of fayetteville
Ferguson	Cynthia	Elder	Pebble Hill Presbyterieian Church, Dewitt NY
Fischer	Pearl	Guest	Isaiah's Table
Fitzgerald-Fye	Benjamin	Ex Officio, Stated Clerk	Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
Gnagy	Pamela	Minister	Member-at-large
Gorman	Doris	Elder Commissioner	Pebble Hill Presbyterian Church
Graham	David	Elder	Skaneateles First Pres
Green	Karen	Minister	First Presbyterian Church, Mexico

Haven	Jeanine	Minister	Baldwinsville
Heery	Patrick	Minister	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Herst	Jeanne	Elder guest	Scipioville presbyterian
Hinman	Andy	Minister	Faith United Oswego
Hooper	Rita	elder commissioner	First United Church of Fulton
Howard	Gordon	Treasurer	Presbytery
Huffsmith	George	Minister	Sennett Federated Church
Hunt	Donna	Elder Commissioner	Westminster Auburn
Jacques	Lynn	Elder, Chair of Leadership Team	Furist United Church of E. Syr
James	Penny	Guest	Columbian Presbyterian Church
Jee	Yong	Senior Pastor	Korean Church of Syracuse
Jenkins	Victor	Elder	Baldwinsville
Kang	Edwin	Minister	Presbyterian Church (USA)
King	David	Elder Commissioner	Faith United Church, Oswego, NY
Kiser	Rebecca	Minister	Jamesville Community Church
Kohlmann	Cindy	Corresponding member	Presbytery of Boston/223rd GA
Krauss	Beth	elder	United Church of Fayetteville
Kreplin	Sandra	Commissioner	Weedsport Presbyterian
Langston	Bob	Minister	Onondaga Hill Presbyterian
Lyman	Elizabeth	minister	Pebble Hill
Lynch	Shavonn	Candidate	Westminster- Auburn
Manciocchi	Sandy	Elder Commissioner	Marcellus
McKinnon	Sylvia	Elder Commissioner	Morrisville Community Church
McTyre	Andrew	Minister	Park Central
McTyre	Sarah	Minister	Park Central
Monger	Diane	Minister	self
Moore	James	Minister	First Presbyterian, Auburn
Moore	Rev. Banu O.	Minister	First Presbyterian Church, Auburn
Murphy	Jacqueline	Guest	New Hope Presbyterian
Oak	Tom	Minister at Large	Minister at Large
Pagan	Jennifer	Treasurer	Taunton Memorial Presbyterian Church
Perry-Hitchings	Linda	Clerk of Session and member of Session	Otisco
Plank	Steve	Minister member	Honorably Retired
Podolak	Darlene	Elder	First Presbyterian Auburn
Reyburn	Shawn	Minister member	LaFayette/Columbian
Rotach	Neil	Elder, Leadership Team member	Leadership Team, King Ferry Presbyterian
Russell	Linda	Ex Officio	Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
Sanderson	Harold	Minister	Syracuse, Westminster

Sindima	Harvey	Minister	Morrisville Community Church
Smith	Susan	Leadership Team	Mexico and leadership team
SMITH	WILLIAM	Elder Commissioner	Weedsport Pres.
Styron	Monica	Minister & Vice Moderator	First Presbyterian Church, Skaneateles NY
Van Buskirk	Linda	Leadership Team	Scipioville
Vollmer	Charles	Minister	First Presbyterian Chittenango
Weaver	Stephanie	Minister	Robinson Elmwood
Wiley	Ann	Elder Commissioner	Auburn Westminster
Wind	Nancy	Elder Commissioner	Isaiah's Table
Youmell	Barbarann	Elder Commissioner	Sennett Federated Church
Zirbel	Lorana	elder	Jamesville Community