



# Presbytery of Genesee Valley

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WEBSITE: [www.pbygenva.org](http://www.pbygenva.org)

A Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley was held electronically via Zoom on Tuesday, February 28, 2023 at 6:30 p.m.

## CONSTITUTION

Moderator Michelle Sumption (York) called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm with prayer. She declared a quorum was present.

### CONGREGATIONS: MINISTERS & COMMISSIONERS (CM = Corresponding Members; CP= Commissioned Pastor)

CONGREGATION	MINISTER	COMMISSIONER(S)	CONGREGATION	MINISTER	COMMISSIONER(S)
Albion, First	Susan Thaine	Anette Mannella	Livonia		Kenneth Schoonover
Attica, First	CP Brad Smith		Lyndonville	CP Martha Mitchell	Betty Wolanyk
Avon, Central	Carin Farmer		Medina, First	William Wilkinson	
Barre Center		Bruce Landis	Mt. Morris, United	—	
Batavia, First	Roula Alkhoury	Tom Schabmehl	Mumford, First		Susan Csizmadia
Bethany	Robert Spratt		North Bergen		
Brockport, First	—	Kristen Gerling	Nunda, Trinity	EX Ron Duttweiler -	
Byron, First	—		Ogden	—	Pat Everett
Caledonia, First	EX Vinod Gnanaraj	Kathy Kemnitz	Ossian, First	—	
Chili, First	Brandi Wooten		Penfield	Twyla Boyer	Mindy Schafer
Christ Clarion	EX CP Mark McDaniel		Perinton	EX Laura Fry	Barbara Jackson
Corfu United	Evan Wildhack		Perry, Brick		
Covington United	Christine James		Pike Community		
Dansville	Marcia Reiff	Laurie Fox	Pittsford, First (2)	Aaron Neff Erin Jacobson	Barbara Smith Luis Martinez
Downtown	Laurie Tiberi		Roch. Korean (2)	—	
East Avon, First	Michelle Allen		Scottsville, Union		Donald Tubman
East Bethany			South		Mary Lee Miller
Elba, First	Ex Barbara Tipton		Sparta, First	—	
Gates	Laura Bachmann	Tom Brewer	Stone, Bergen		
Geneseo, Central	Nancy Lowmaster		Summerville		Mary Haverfield
Groveland Fed.			Third (3)	EX Rebecca Segers Tedd Pullano	
Holley, First	—		Trinity Emmanuel (2)	Ernest Krug	Joyce Burwell Miller
Honeoye Falls		Martha Kumler	Tuscarora, First		
Irondequoit			Twelve Corners		Katharine Iuli
John Calvin	—	Ellen Best	Victor, First	CM Jimmy Reader	Dean Cornwell

John Knox	CME, Alan Dailey	Priscilla Thomas	Warsaw United	—	
LeRoy, First			Webster	CM Philip Davis	
Lima			York, United	Michelle Sumption	Nancy Richenberg

**MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT LARGE / MINISTERS HONORABLY RETIRED**  
**(VM = Validated AL = At-large HR = Honorably Retired IA =Inactive)**

**Present:**

Viktoria Berlik (AL)	Tom Gardner (AL)	Laurel Nelson (VM)
Bruce Boak (HR)	Ho Dong Hwang (AL)	Gail Ricciuti (HR)
Carolyn Grohman (HR)	Robert Heppenstall (HR)	Charles Roberts (HR)
Jeff Falter (AL)	Ray Lindquist (HR)	Stephanie Sauve (HR)

**Excused:**

Louise Armstrong (HR)	Anne Waasdorp (HR)	Jane Watt (HR)
Rod Frohmann (HR)	Lisa Lancaster (HR)	Pat Youngdahl (HR)
Nathan Mochizuki (AL)	Judy Hay (HR)	

**ADDITIONAL ELDER COMMISSIONERS / CERTIFIED CHRISTIAN EDUCATORS** (Appointed by Presbytery to correct elder-clergy imbalance)

Lewis Becker (Pittsford)	Betty Iwan (Third)	Karen Pryor (Third)
Kathleen Coons (Gates)	Robert Mecredy (Pittsford)	Nancy Sprenkle (Pittsford)
Fred Denson (Webster)	Susan Orr (Trinity Emmanuel)	Kay VanNostrand (Lyndonville)

**CORRESPONDING MEMBERS ENROLLED FOR THIS MEETING (others noted under “Congregations”):**

None

**REGISTERED VISITORS including PRESBYTERY STAFF and COMMISSIONED PASTORS not serving churches:**

Cheryl Battaglia (Staff)  
 Lisa Bennett (Staff)  
 Janette Henderson (Pittsford)  
 Amanda Krenning- Muoio (Albion)

SUMMARIES OF 2023 MEETINGS	Jan 28	Feb 28				
Total Minister Members of Presbytery	109	109				
Total Minister Commissioners Present	49	31				
Total Elder Commissioners Present	54	36				
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+5	+5				
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders	21	34				
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders & Pastors	13	19				
Total Registered Visitors	16	7				
<b>TOTAL REGISTERED ATTENDANCE - 2023</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>74</b>				

**LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Moderator read the Land Acknowledgement statement in which we pay respects to the indigenous people on whose traditional land this meeting was collectively held tonight. Presbyters were encouraged to work toward partnership with our indigenous sisters and brothers with a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration and address the historic injustices toward indigenous people.

**Greeting New Commissioners**

Commissioners attending their first Presbytery meeting in this role were recognized and welcomed.

**Approval of Docket**

Having no objections, the Presbytery **VOTED** to approve the following docket for this meeting:

<b>DOCKET</b>				
<b>For the SPECIAL Meeting of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley</b>				
<b>Tuesday, February 28, 2023</b>		<b>Electronic Meeting via Zoom</b>		
<b>SPECIAL Meeting</b>				<b>Rochester, New York</b>
<b>6:25 p.m.</b>			<b>Announcements</b>	<b>Michelle Sumption</b>
<b>6:30 p.m.</b>			<b>Call to Order and Opening Prayer</b> ▪ Land Acknowledgement	<b>Michelle Sumption</b>
			<b>Introductory Business</b> ▪ Declaration of Quorum ▪ Privilege of the Floor ▪ Approval of Docket	<b>Michelle Sumption</b>
<b>6:35 p.m.</b>			<b>Report of the Big Picture Team and the Board of Trustees</b> ▪ Motion to Approve the Sale of the John Knox Presbyterian Church building and related motions	<b>Tedd Pullano Alan Dailey Priscilla Thomas</b>
<b>6:50 p.m.</b>			<b>Report of the Committee on Ministry</b> ▪ Motion to Approve the Call of Rev. Sue Thaine as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church, Albion, NY, and related motions	<b>Charles Roberts Annette Mannella Amanda Krenning-Muoio</b>
<b>7:15 p.m.</b>			<b>Adjourn with Benediction</b>	

**Privilege of the Floor**

Having no objections, the Presbytery **VOTED** to grant privilege of voice to non-commissioners for the purpose of participating in reports.

**REPORT OF THE BIG PICTURE TEAM AND BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Rev. Tedd Pullano (Third) presented the report of the Trustees and Big Picture Team regarding the recommendation to sell the John Knox church building. He noted the congregation will remain active and will search for an alternative worship space. Rev. Pullano indicated Rev. E. Alan Daily (CM John Knox) and Elder Pricilla Thomas were available at the meeting for questions. The Presbytery **VOTED** by poll vote (which was 100% in favor) to:

1. **Authorize** John Knox Presbyterian Church, located at 3233 West Ridge Road, Town of Greece, Monroe County, New York, to sell to Light of the World Assemblies of God Church, a religious corporation, the premises known as 3233 West Ridge Road, Town of Greece, Monroe County, New York (tax # 073.16-3-1) for \$925,000.

Such sale shall take place in accordance with a purchase and sale contract between the parties dated on or about January 25, 2023, with such contingencies, terms and conditions as are set forth in such contract and negotiated by the Trustees of John Knox Presbyterian Church, and subject to the approval of a Justice of the Supreme Court or the New York State Attorney General, and

2. **Apply** the net proceeds of the sale of such property, after payment of unpaid Presbytery per capita and mission commitments and all necessary and customary closing costs, including attorney's fees and the expenses of procuring the Court Order, for the use and benefit of John Knox Presbyterian Church, and

3. **Authorize** the Trustees, Clerk of Session and Ruling Elders of John Knox Presbyterian Church and the Chair of the Presbytery Board of Trustees and the Stated Clerk to take such actions and to execute and deliver such documents as shall be appropriate and necessary to effectuate the foregoing.

[Note: These actions were approved by the Congregation and Corporation of John Knox Presbyterian Church at the annual meeting of the Congregation and Corporation held on January 29, 2023, and are subject to the approval of the Presbytery and the Supreme Court or the Attorney General.]

#### **REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY**

Rev. Charles Roberts (HR) reported the Committee on Ministry recommends that Presbytery approve the call of Rev. Susan Thaine as Pastor at First Presbyterian Church in Albion, NY. Rev. Thaine has been serving as stated supply pastor at that church since July 2018. Elder Amanda Krenning-Muoio attested to the call confirming a congregational meeting was held on February 5, 2023 at which it was unanimously approved to extend a call to Rev. Thaine as installed pastor. Elder Annette Mannella spoke to the call explaining the congregation believes the ministry and mission of the church will be best served by calling Rev. Thaine as the installed pastor. The congregation believes their expectations of Rev. Thaine will not significantly change. They desire to continue with Rev. Thaine in a more intentional relationship. Following a period of examination regarding the mission of the church, Rev. Thaine was moved to an electronic waiting room. It was noted that the Book of Order requires at least a three-quarters vote of Presbytery to move a pastor from a temporary to installed position. Upon the arresting of the examination, Presbytery **VOTED** by poll vote (which was 98% in favor) to:

**Approve** the call of First Presbyterian Church, Albion, NY to Rev. Susan Thaine as Pastor (full time) effective March 1, 2023 at the following terms:

Cash Salary	\$35,503.00
Housing Allowance	\$14,500.00
Utilities	\$ 5,300.00
<b>EFFECTIVE SALARY</b>	<b>\$55,303.00</b>
Social Security Offset	\$ 4,230.68
Benefits PC USA	\$21,568.17
Continuing Ed/Study Leave	\$ 1,500.00
Travel/Professional Allowance	\$ 4,795.00
<b>TOTAL COMPENSATION</b>	<b>\$87,396.85</b>
Cont. Education/Study Leave	2 weeks

Annual Vacation	36 days including 6 Sundays
Sick Leave	1 day/mon cumulative

**Appoint** the following persons as the Administrative Commission to install Rev. Susan Thaine as Pastor at 6:00 pm on Friday, May 12, 2023 at Albion First Presbyterian Church:

Moderator Rev. Michelle Sumption (York)	Elder John Goehle (Ogden)
Rev. William Wilkinson (Medina)	Elder Martha Mitchell (Albion)
Rev. Kevin Hershey (Scottsville)	Elder Susan Orr (Trinity Emmanuel)
Rev. Twyla Boyer (Penfield)	

**Appoint** the following persons as Additional Participants of the Administrative Commission:

Rev. Susan Boring (Eagle Harbor United Methodist)  
Rev. Marsha Rivers (First Baptist Church – Albion)  
Rev. James Renfrew (HR)

**Dismiss** the Administrative Commission at the conclusion of the Service of Installation.

Rev. Thaine rejoined the meeting at this time.

**ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER**

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m. with prayer by the Moderator for the ministry of Rev. Thaine.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Susan Orr, Stated Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen L Coons, Journal Clerk

**APPENDIX**

Appendix A: Rationale for Calling Rev. Susan Thaine

## Appendix A: Rationale for Calling Rev. Susan Thaine

In July of 2018, the Session of Albion 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian church entered into a stated supply contract with Rev. Susan Thaine. After a difficult and divisive season in the life of the congregation, including a Presbytery led Administrative Commission assigned to oversee the life of the church, followed by a highly fruitful and healthy period of reformation under the guidance of Rev. Twyla Boyer as Interim Pastor, entering into ministry with Pastor Sue, who grew up and continues to live in the community was a hopeful sign that a new chapter had begun. Session members, that served during that time, identified reasons for their original decision to hire Rev. Susan Thaine.

Elders Dorothy Boyer, Alec Sherman and Tim McGee were serving as Session members during the stated supply hiring process, and shared their thoughts from that time period. Our congregation had endured (and survived) a tumultuous time. The Session recognized that it was time to move forward. With each Session meeting, prior to her hire, Pastor Sue's passion and vision for an all-encompassing ministry became evident. As a Pastor, we recognized Sue would love and care for our congregation. We knew she would love and care for those in our community; and perhaps more importantly, she would challenge us to think outside the box and do the same. During the subsequent meetings between Session and Pastor Sue, the Session members recalled that her excitement and energy level was contagious. Her faith resounded in word and deed. Pastor Sue embraced the holy spirit and its guidance. She encouraged us to engage in personal conversations with Jesus, God the Father, and the Holy Spirit and listen for the voice that would speak to us. As we each did that, and shared our thoughts, we felt it was the right to hire Pastor Sue. This was a unanimous decision. We affectionally, refer to this time period of mutual learning and growth as our "engagement" with Pastor Sue.

Since 2018, Albion Presbyterian and Pastor Sue have weathered and learned together how to adapt when facing ministry challenges of the pandemic, as well as the declining interest in organized religions, including Christianity. Over the past five years, with Pastor Sue's leadership, we have grown in faith in so many amazing ways. Thanks to Pastor Sue's involvement, The Harvest Neighborhood, an ecumenical online worship service, evolved through necessity during the pandemic continues. We have come to appreciate its value. Members of the church and our community at large can access this whenever they are unable attend worship in person. We have welcomed new members and visitors. Our building use has increased for our community for weddings, funerals, Blue Christmas (a service of remembrance), and various community fundraisers. Our choir has grown in number, spiritual connectivity and enthusiasm. Through Pastor Sue's modeling of "love in action", we have increased our intentions for caring for those within our doors, extended families, and within our community; "membership" is no longer a consideration. Pastor Sue has lived into the ministry she spoke of in those early Session meetings and brought an energy and enthusiasm that has helped each of us to grow in faith. Our members were given notice about the Session moving forward with plans to install Pastor Sue. This motion was brought forth at our annual meeting. Once again, the vote was unanimous to proceed with this endeavor. We truly believe it is time to "get married." It is with excited anticipation that we request your approval to install Reverend Susan Thaine, as our Pastor at the 1<sup>st</sup> Presbyterian Church in Albion.