



Presbytery of Genesee Valley

1049 WEGMAN ROAD • ROCHESTER, NEW YORK 14624 • (585) 242-0080

WEBSITE: www.pbygenva.org

A Special Meeting of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley was held electronically via Zoom on Tuesday, November 28, 2023 at 6:30 pm. The purpose of the meeting was to consider a motion to approve the dissolution of North Bergen Presbyterian Church.

CONSTITUTION

Moderator TE Aaron Neff (Pittsford) called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm, declared a quorum was present and offered a prayer.

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

CONGREGATION	MINISTER	COMMISSIONER(S)	CONGREGATION	MINISTER	COMMISSIONER(S)
Albion, First	Susan Thaine		Lyndonville	CP Martha Mitchell	
Attica, First	EX CP Brad Smith		Medina, First		
Avon, Central	Carin Farmer	Barbara Sceusa	Mt. Morris, United	---	
Barre Center	---	Bruce Landis	Mumford, First	CP Roger Estes	Susan Cszmadia
Batavia, First	Roula Alkhouri	Tom Schubmehl	North Bergen	CP David Fish	
Bethany	Robert Spratt		Nunda, Trinity	EX Ron Duttweiler	
Brockport, First	---	Kristen Gerling	Ogden	CP Whitney Scoville	Pat Everett
Byron, First			Ossian, First	---	
Caledonia, First	EX Vinod Gnanaraj	Mary MacIntyre	Penfield	Twyla Boyer	Robin Sheppard
Chili, First	Brandi Wooten		Perinton		Barbara Jackson
Christ Clarion	CP Mark McDaniel		Perry, Brick	CP Lynn Burdick	
Corfu United	Evan Wildhack	Patty Miles	Pike Community		
Covington United	Christine James	Rick Noble	Pittsford, First (2)	Aaron Neff Erin Jacobson	Judith Van Dorn
Dansville			Scottsville, Union	Kevin Hershey	Donald Tubman
Downtown	Laurie Tiberi	Sam King	South	Deb Swift	
East Avon, First	EX Michelle Allen		Sparta, First	---	
East Bethany	CM Shiela McCullough		Stone, Bergen	CP Dave Fish	Deborah Godlove
Elba, First			Summerville	Elaine Loggi	Mary Haverfield
Gates	Laura Bachmann	Thomas Brewer	Third (2)	EX Rebecca Segers Tedd Pullano	
Geneseo, Central	---	Julie Brocklehurst Woods	Trinity Emmanuel (2)	Ernest Krug	
Groveland Fed.			Tuscarora, First		
Holley, First	---	Don Welch	Twelve Corners	EX Jeff Fox-Kline	Katharine Iuli
Honeoye Falls		Martha Kumler	Victor, First		Dean Cornwell
Irondequoit	Deb Swift		Warsaw United		
John Calvin	Carson Mouser	Ellen Best	Webster	EX Nadia Mullin	Tony Hubbard
John Knox	EX E. Alan Dailey		York, United	EX Michelle Sumption	
LeRoy, First					
Lima					
Livonia	CP Jerry Swain	Kenneth Schoonover			

MINISTERS IN VALIDATED MINISTRIES / MINISTERS AT LARGE / RETIRED MINISTERS

(VM = Validated AL = At-large R = Retired IA =Inactive)

Present:

Elizabeth Beckhusen (R)	Janice Fitzgerald (R)	James Renfrew (R)
Viktoria Berlik (AL)	Lisa Lancaster (R)	Charles Roberts (R)
Bruce Boak (R)	Ray Lindquist (R)	Stephanie Sauve (R)
Jeff Falter (AL)	Laurel Nelson (VM)	Thomas Taylor (R)

Excused:

Philip Benier (AL)	Nathan Mochizuki (VM)
Judy Lee Hays (R)	Jane Watt (R)
Robert Heppenstall (R)	Pat Youngdahl (R)

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

Lewis Becker (Pittsford)	George Gotcsik (Third)	Hezekiah Simmons (Pittsford)
Joyce Burwell Miller (Trinity Emmanuel)	Betty Iwan (Third)	Kay VanNorstrand (Lyndonville)
Paul Bishop (Third)	Bob Mecredy (Pittsford)	
Kathy Coons (Gates)	Susan Orr (Trinity Emmanuel)	
	Melinda Shaffer (Moderator Elect)	

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)	Philip Davis (CM)
Lisa Bennett (Staff)	Peter Judd (Perinton)

SUMMARIES OF 2023 MEETINGS	Jan 28	Feb 28	Apr 29	July 25	Sept 19	Oct 24	Nov 28
Total Minister Members of Presbytery	109	109	106	105	105	104	103
Total Minister Commissioners Present	49	31	45	41	30	46	31
Total Elder Commissioners Present	54	36	43	48	34	50	43
Parity (expressed in terms of Elders, + or -)	+5	+5	-2	+7	+4	+4	+12
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders	21	34	28	26	36	25	33
Total Churches Unrepresented by Elders & Pastors	13	19	19	15	27	15	18
Total Registered Visitors	16	7	12	21	7	9	4
TOTAL REGISTERED ATTENDANCE - 2023	119	74	100	110	71	105	78

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Moderator-Elect Mindy Shaffer (Penfield) 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 siblings with a spirit of reconciliation and collaboration and address the historic injustices toward indigenous people, especially the injustices that occurred at Presbyterian affiliated schools.

APPROVAL OF DOCKET

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

6:25 p.m.			Announcements	
6:30 p.m.			Call to Order and Opening Prayer <ul style="list-style-type: none">Land Acknowledgement	Aaron Neff Mindy Shaffer
			Introductory Business <ul style="list-style-type: none">Declaration of QuorumPrivilege of the FloorApproval of Docket	Aaron Neff
6:35 p.m.			Report of the Committee on Ministry Report <ul style="list-style-type: none">Motion to Approve the Dissolution of North Bergen Presbyterian Church effective December 31, 2023, and related motions	Charles Roberts
7 p.m.			Adjourn with Prayer	Mindy Shaffer

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

TE Chuck Roberts (R), a member of the Committee on Ministry Leadership Team, highlighted the work of the North Bergen Presbyterian Church congregation this past year in discerning the future of the church. He reported that due to factors such as building expenses, lack of membership, and difficulty in finding Session leadership, the congregation has concluded it is time to dissolve. Motions for this were approved by the congregation at two special congregational meetings held in the sanctuary and on Zoom on July 9, 2023 and October 22, 2023, moderated by Rev. Charles Roberts (R). The final worship will be held on December 31, 2023. All assets and property will then be transferred to the Presbytery as of January 1, 2024.

TE Tedd Pullano (Third), chair of Presbytery Trustees, indicated the Trustees will work with a realtor on the sale of the building. Trustees will bring a recommendation to the Presbytery for the distribution of the sale proceeds as well as assets of the church when a contract for the sale is brought for consideration. At their December 2023 meeting, Session will consider requests from members for distribution of specific assets and make recommendations to the Trustees. A question/answer period followed.

Chuck Roberts then indicated that the Committee on Ministry, with concurrence of the Big Picture Team and the Board of Trustees, recommends the Presbytery take the following actions regarding North Bergen Presbyterian Church. Presbytery **VOTED** by poll vote to:

1. **Authorize** the dissolution of the North Bergen Presbyterian congregation (NBPC) effective December 31, 2023, with the final worship to be held in their sanctuary on December 31, 2023.
2. **Receive** the property of the church located at 7068 N Bergen Rd, town of Bergen, Genesee County, NY 14416 and all remaining assets effective January 1, 2024, noting the following:

- a. Unpaid Per Capita and mission payments owed to the Presbytery will be disbursed to the Presbytery at the time the property is sold;
- b. Remaining Assets: After all disbursements, legal, and other obligations of NBPC have been met after the sale of the property, any remaining assets of NBPC shall be distributed upon determination of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley with consideration to any requests received by the NBPC congregation before its dissolution.

3. **Authorize** the Presbytery Board of Trustees to maintain the property utilizing, as necessary, the assets of the church to do so, and to obtain a buyer for the property. The Trustees will bring to the Presbytery for its consideration an offer for the sale of the property with a recommendation for the disbursement of remaining assets.

Acknowledgement was given to the congregation of North Bergen Presbyterian Church for their faithfulness and prayers were offered that each member finds a new faith community.

See Appendix: North Bergen – Background and Rationale for Dissolution

ADJOURNMENT WITH PRAYER

The meeting adjourned at 7:03 p.m. with prayer by Moderator Elect Mindy Shaffer.

ATTEST: _____

Susan Orr, Stated Clerk

Kathleen L Coons, Journal Clerk

Appendix A

NORTH BERGEN - BACKGROUND and RATIONALE FOR DISSOLUTION

North Bergen is a small, 200-year-old rural congregation of the Presbytery that has experienced an aging and declining membership (less than 40 members), lower attendance, a church building far larger than needed, deferred maintenance, difficulty in securing Session leadership, and reduced revenue. Their primary ministry these past few years has been to provide a food cupboard that serves the community.

Over the past year, members have had conversations and discernment activities, including several Session and congregational meetings and consultation with the Committee on Ministry, in an attempt to discern future options for the congregation. There have been multiple efforts to determine what was and was not realistically possible to continue as a congregation. The hope was to continue the food cupboard ministry in the building. However, the pantry is not financially capable of becoming owners of the building. They are looking for a new location in the area and intend to move before the year ends.

At special congregational meetings held (in Zoom and in person) on July 9, 2023, and October 22, 2023, the congregation approved their dissolution effective December 31, 2023. Session recommended to the congregation that they relinquish the building and all assets to the Presbytery Board of Trustees as of January 1, 2024. Presbytery Trustees will maintain the building while searching for a buyer for the property. The final worship service of the North Bergen Presbyterian Church will be held December 31, 2023, at 9:45 a.m.