

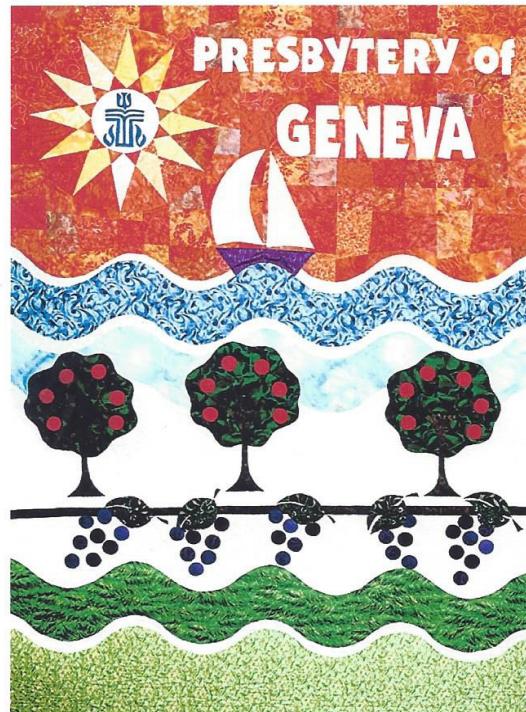
Moderator's Letter

Grace to you and peace. It was good to see many of you at the Presbytery meeting at Western Presbyterian Church in Palmyra last week.

In this letter you will find some notes about:

- *The Presbytery retreat*
- *Synod grant money for coaching*
- *SARC draft of standing rules*
- *Available blue Presbyterian Hymnals*
- *Where we are in our presbytery journey*
- *Prayers*

David Kilgore



A Retreat for the Presbytery of Geneva

**Led by Dr. David Olsen
Director of the Samaritan Counseling Center, Albany,
NY**

**Saturday, April 25
9 a.m. – 4 p.m.**

**The Presbyterian Church in Geneva
24 Park Place
Parking lots and fellowship hall
entrance on Washinton St.**

**RSVP to Karen Jensen at Presbytery Office by April 21. 315.536.7753
kjensen@presbyteryofgeneva.org**

Purpose:

to help us, as the Presbytery of Geneva,

- build relationships
- discern our vision for the future
- determine the mission priorities that will help us live into that future

Geneva Presbyterian Women will provide lunch and refreshments. A \$6.00 donation per person is suggested for lunch. It will be collected that day.

Pastors: please share this with your sessions. Everyone interested in the life of the presbytery should attend this retreat.

Coaching Network

News Article re: Scholarships Available from SNE Coaching Network

submitted by Janice Fitzgerald, Moderator



FIVE COACHING SCHOLARSHIPS TO BE AWARDED

Are you a PC(USA) ministry leader within the Synod of the Northeast? Are you excited about the potential for new or expanded ministry and moving forward? Or are you trying to help your ministry determine what's next - or move into the vision they have already claimed? Did you know that the Synod of the Northeast has a network of professional coaches that could work with and support you as you strive to be the most effective leader in your ministry situation that you can be?

***The SNE Coaching Network is offering scholarships for
FIVE PROFESSIONAL COACHING SESSIONS
to FIVE PC(USA) ministry leaders within the SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST.***

Preference will be given to: Leaders of emerging ministries; Leaders actively engaged in church transformation; Young ministry leaders; Racial/ethnic leaders; Small church leaders; Leaders working through transitions and/or adaptive challenges

Complete the attached application form and return it to us. Applications will be reviewed and scholarships awarded based on (1) preference list above and (2) date completed application received. Scholarship awardees will be matched with a professional coach from the SNE Coaching Network.

Deadline: although applications will be accepted until five scholarships have been awarded, the deadline for the first review of applications is **April 30, 2015**.

Want to know more about what coaching is and about our professional coaches?

*Check out our [website](#) or [contact us!](#)
Click [here](#) for the application*

SARC Draft – Temporary Standing Rules

One of the dilemmas facing our presbytery is that we are not operating under an agreed upon set of standing rules. When General Council asked the Synod for help last spring – by giving us a Synod Administrative Review Committee – one kind of assistance was with a new set of standing rules. At the March meeting of General Council some representatives of the SARC shared a document – a draft of temporary standing rules. Council should have time at its April meeting to review this document, perhaps tweak it, and then post the proposal on the website. The idea is that this would be temporary; it will no doubt be changed as the presbytery adopts new mission priorities and a new structure in the future. But for now the SARC has offered it to us as a way to do business.

The document contains the usual things: a statement of purpose, number of stated meetings, what constitutes a quorum, the officers of the presbytery, their duties, the makeup of General Council, and the committees of the presbytery.

Council will notify everyone when it is posted on the website.

Copies of the Presbyterian Hymnal (the blue hymnal) available

The pastor of Central Presbyterian Church, Geneseo, writes: We have 117 used blue Presbyterian hymnals ("Hymns, Psalms, and Spiritual Songs") free to any church that could use them. We are hoping that you might help us locate a good home for them. Those interested can contact me using the information below.

Rev. Dr. Nancy E. Lowmaster
Pastor, Central Presbyterian Church
31 Center Street
Geneseo, NY 14454
Pastor's email: pastor@cpcgeneseo.org
Pastor's phone: [585-243-0669 x 301](tel:585-243-0669x301)

From the Moderator:

Where we are in our presbytery journey

Last fall I offered General Council and, with the encouragement of Council, the whole presbytery, some ideas that were described as "firmly written in the sand." They were a month by month set of "steps" that could take us along our presbytery journey. The sand keeps shifting but we are still on our feet.

One "shifting sand" part is that the SARC has not finished its report. But that group has assured us that there will be few surprises and that we are already doing much of what they would recommend anyway. We look forward to that report in the near future.

We have taken the steps of passing a 2015 budget and getting our way through the Amendments to the Book of Order.

Another step was the set of "listening sessions" in February where members of Council would be available to listen to anyone concerning hurt or pain that had not been heard or to receive ideas or suggestions for the future. Frankly, February was a bad month to try this. But Council members still want to be available to anyone and everyone. Feel free to contact any member of Council by phone or email.

The next big step is the Presbytery Retreat on April 25. There we hope to really begin to look toward the future, discerning a vision and some mission priorities. Council urges everyone to try to attend this event.

Assuming that step goes well, the next steps will involve reflecting on our learnings and eventually putting together a structure of committees or task groups or clusters or what-have-you so that we can live into that vision and work toward those priorities. And eventually we will need to figure how how to pay for all that, so a budget will need to be constructed. It would be really nice if all that were done by this time next year. But you never know how the sand might shift.

So I guess “patience” will be the key word for the rest of the year. And that brings us to prayers.

Prayers

Please keep the presbytery in your prayers this month, especially as we prepare for the retreat. We call this stuff “discernment” because we believe it’s not new ideas we need; we need to learn what God has in mind for us. So please pray for the Spirit to move among us as we gather for the retreat. Pray for our leader Dr. David Olsen.

Keep the David Ashby family in prayer. David’s father passed away earlier this month.