



2017 Spring Quarterly Meeting
Synod of the Northeast Mission and Ministry Commission
April 17-28 in Albany, New York

“Come to the Table” September 22-23 (Friday-Saturday) at Stony Point. All Welcome to attend and participate.

24 attended: 13 Presbyteries represented, 1 Young Adult Advisory Delegate, 2 Racial Ethnic Caucus, 5 staff, Presbyterian Woman Representative, 3 Chair roles

Working Group on Networks

- Approved authorizing \$9500 for *The Northern NY COM* Working Group Retreat to be used for meeting expenses. (Cayuga-Syracuse, Northern NY, Susquehanna Valley, Utica, Albany and Geneva)
- Approve authorizing up to \$6700 for the purpose of holding up to 4 for Immigration Networking and Strategy Regional Gatherings and 4 Sanctuary Training meetings.

Working Group on Mission

- *ADK Church WoW* (Albany Presbytery) approved \$11,00 for one year to assist in their welcoming alternative worshipping community, which seeks to meet the needs of people who are not drawn to or comfortable within more “traditional” forms of church and worship.
- *ROC SALT (Service and Learning Together) Mission Center* (Genesee Valley) approved \$18,000 for 2017 and \$15,00 for 2018 to engage diverse groups in service and learning experiences through an innovative immersive experience that combines mission partnerships, spiritual reflection and education, while meeting critical and basic needs of our neighbors. ROC SALT links spiritual reflection and hands-on mission by connecting groups to urban neighbors in the City of Rochester and surrounding communities around issues of poverty and justice.
- *Firebird Spirit – Leadership Development and Resource Sharing through Creative Partnerships* (Genesee Valley) received \$34,00 (\$20,00 year 1, \$14,00 year 2) to involve partnerships in all of their Acts of Faith (AoF) – even worship – meet for free in institutions like senior communities, local diners, apartment houses, coffeehouses, etc. Firebird Spirit is the AoF that ministers to other AoF’s by meeting needs of the overall program through Leadership Development and Office Services
- *Community Youth Choir* of Valley Stream Presbyterian Church (Long Island) approved \$35,000 (\$20,000 year 1, \$15,000 year 2) to assist with bringing 100 young people (and those young at heart) to form the Valley Stream Community Gospel Choir (VSCGS) from the Valley Stream area and surrounding communities. VSCGS will benefit this vibrant community by drawing on the creativity of youth from diverse backgrounds in order to further promote unity, which is much needed in our world today.
- *LGBTQ+ Dinner Church* an Offshoot of Abundant Grace Dinner Church (New Brunswick) approved \$10,000 to support their effort to provide opportunities for those in the LGBTQ+ community to connect (or reconnect) with their faith. They continue to model worship after the dinner church model in which we gather around the table to witness to the grace of God in community through scripture and proclamation, communion, prayers and song, around a meal that feeds their bodies as well as their souls.
- *The Pastoral Sabbath* of Stony Point Center (Hudson River) approved \$12,000 to support their effort in healing new clergy who enter into a Presbytery be physically mindful, emotionally aware, mentally attentive and spiritually healthy. The goal of Pastoral Sabbath is practice and education for Teaching Elders and Commissioned Ruling Elders to understand their own vital need for

nurture and perspective, and for communities of faith to learn (again) that Sabbath keeping is not merely a “day off,” but a time to be in, and return to, right relations with God.

- *Transitioning Mission at the Eastward) to the 21st Century* (Northern New York) approved \$15,000 for 2017 and \$15,000- for 2018 in their efforts to replace the Executive Director that resigned over seven years ago. The new position will be combined Executive Director position and a ½ time pastor. This person would be tasked with keeping two vital local programs (CATE [Camp at the Eastward] and Housing Ministry) alive to offer significant ministries to the local community of families living in severe poverty.
- *Fourth Church Youth Theater: Re-Knitting the Neighborhood Through Stories, Song and Musicals* (Boston) approved \$15,000 for 2017 and \$15,000 for 2018 to assist the church in developing an excellent teen theater program and integrate their effort with community building. Their section in Boston has changed significantly in the last 20 years. Once a poor area, their market housing is now pricey and full of young adults. Public housing (including two nearby “projects”) has diversified ethnically. Their community needs reknitting.
- *Digital Communication & Social Media Ministry Network* (Elizabeth, Monmouth, New Brunswick) approved \$5,000 for 2017 and \$3,000 for 2018 to create a three Presbytery Network for congregations groups to inform, inspire, and train. Each Presbytery must match the \$5,000 before Synod funds are released.
- *Pastoral Care Mission Community Church* (Eastern Korean) approved \$7,500 to help them get prepared to provide support to churches with special needs. They will reach out to those who left traditional church owing to lack of pastoral care support necessary. In addition, they will provide non-traditional hours for weekly worship, bible study, prayer, and pastoral care and counseling.
- *Hispanic Caucus* approved an additional \$3,000 to combating racism project for Rendell Memorial PC.
- Approved the expenditure of up to \$3,000 from the Presby Langdon Fund for scholarships to the Hispanic Youth Cohort Event.

Working Group on Administration

- Set the Calendar for 2018 year
 - Synod Assembly – September 21-22, 2018
 - Synod Mission & Ministry Commission (reduced from 4 to 3)
 - February 9-10, 2018
 - June 1-2, 2018
 - November 2-3, 2018
- Higher Education applications due June 30, 2017.
 - Application decision will be made October 6-7, 2017
 - Checks will be received by January 15, 2018

Upcoming Events in 2017

- Clean Climate Network Gathering, October 20-21 @ Stony Point
- Prison Ministry Network Gathering, October 27-28 @ Stony Point
- Fall Mission & Ministry Commission, October 6-7 in Albany

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia A. Champlin, RE

Geneva Presbytery Mission & Ministry Commissioner