

2015 Fall Quarterly Meeting
Synod of the Northeast
Mission and Ministry Commission
September 25-26 in Albany, New York



- 37 attended: Out of 22 Presbyteries - 19 were present, 4 Young Adult Advisory Delegates were present (Geneva Presbytery has not submitted a name), 2 Racial Ethnic Caucus, Presbyterian Women, 6 staff, Geneva's TE David Ashby moderated
- Wingo Fundraising Consulting Communication & Design Service reported how the three pieces of communication, funding and fundraising interact.
- Newark Presbytery SARC updated with signs of renewal and hope
- The Synod will be sending overtures to General Assembly supporting wider representation of Synod Commissioners and members of the Mission & Ministry Commission. The working group is still working on whether one or two.
- Mission Working Group
 - There was an injustice to an African-American pastor, William Robeson, who was removed as pastor from the Witherspoon Street Presbyterian Church by the Presbytery of New Brunswick in 1900 and that the current presbytery offered its apology for its actions then. The Synod sent a letter affirming how that presbytery made amends for the injustice done to pastor and church. The church is establishing a center for reconciliation and the study and advancement of human rights, The Paul Robeson House, named after the pastor's son.
- Innovation Grants Approved \$11,000 for 2015 and \$53,00 for 2016
 - Mision Presbiteriana Nueva Vida – Palisades Presbytery
 - Abundant Grace Dinner Church – Monmouth Presbytery
 - Neighborhood Esperanza – New York City
- Mission Grants
 - Approved to set aside a block grant of \$30,000 to support the 2016 Youth Triennium and recommend that it become one of the Synod's Mission. How these funds are to be distributed was referred to a working group that will report back in January
 - Campus Ministry grant approved \$39,600
 - Hofstra Protestant Campus Ministry – Long Island Presbytery
 - University of New Hampshire (The Waysmeet Center) – Northern New England Presbytery

- Plymouth State University Campus Ministry – Northern New England Presbytery
 - Bloomfield College
 - Genesee Area Campus Ministry, Brockport & Nazareth College Campus Ministries – Genesee Valley
 - Rutgers Protestant Campus Ministry – New Brunswick
 - Troy Area United Ministries, Union College & University of Albany – Albany Presbytery

- Networking Group
 - Prison Ministry Network approved
 - Improve the pre-release and post release re-entry process of people formerly incarcerated into welcoming communities. More awareness, provide education, be advocates, direct services to help the community and support leadership. This is truly an ecumenical effort.

- Leadership Development Funds

Racial ethnic persons and persons with disabilities should be aware that these funds are available and should be sought for leadership development.

- Authorize the transfers
 - Oakridge Presbyterian Church from The Palisades Presbytery to Newton Presbytery
 - First Presbyterian Church of Bernardsville from Elizabeth Presbytery to Eastern Korean Presbytery.
 - Elizabeth Presbytery created a category of affiliates of the church so that the Korean pastors and ruling elders can continue to attend Elizabeth Presbytery meetings if they wish and have voice but not vote. This creates a continued relationship and hospitality.

- Upcoming events
 - Come to the Table [This event has already been held]
 - Friday-Saturday, October 30-31
 - Silver Bay Conference Center, Silver Bay, New York
 - Nearly 175 attended from all 22 Presbyteries in our Synod and two Presbyteries from the Synod of Boriquen -Puerto Rico. The ages ranged from pre-school through Senior Citizens.
 - Six from Geneva Presbytery attended
 - TE Janice Fitzgerald & TE Betsey Crimmins – Coaching Network
 - RE Deborah Lind-Schmitz – Worship Planning
 - TE David Ashby – Mission & Mission Moderator
 - TE Katherine Griffis, TE Robin Lostetter
 - RE Virginia Champlin – Presbyterian Women

- Presbytery Convention
 - Friday-Saturday, November 13-14
 - The Desmond, Albany, New York
 - Each Presbytery Moderator has been invited to attend and bring two other people from their Presbytery.
 - Goal is to have each presbytery discuss mission and ministry in each presbytery and how the synod can walk alongside the presbyteries as they do their work.
 - Attending from Geneva RE David Kilgore and TE Dick Schied

- Next Mission & Ministry Commission meeting:
 - Friday-Saturday, January 29-30, 2016
 - The Desmond, Albany, New York

Respectfully Submitted,

RE Virginia A. Champlin
Geneva Presbytery Mission & Ministry Commissioner