

Synod of the Northeast Report to Geneva Presbytery  
September 16, 2014

Synod of the Northeast Council met July 11-12, 2014 in Albany for the Summer Quarterly meeting.

- ◆ Leadership Team approved the final members of the Geneva Presbytery Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC)
- ◆ Our Synod form of government “The New Way Forward” will be fully implemented in October at Stony Point.
- ◆ The By-laws and Standing Rules Committee spent the last year and half reviewing and rewriting both documents to bring them into line with The New Way Forward. Both the By-laws and Standing Rules were tweaked with the Council suggestions and are now in the hands of Synod Assembly Commissioners for discussion and approval at next month’s Synod Assembly. You may view these on the Synod Website.
- ◆ The Personnel Committee brought forward and approved
  - The position of “Transitional Leader” will conclude at Synod Assembly
  - The position of “Synod Leader” be established at the close of Synod Assembly
  - The Rev. Dr. Harold Delhagen be nominated to the Assembly to a 4 year term in the position of “Synod Leader”
  - 2% Cost of Living Adjustment be factored into the 2015 budget for all staff except for the Synod Leader and Stated Clerk, then in 2016 all staff will receive a minimum of 2% Cost of Living Adjustment.
  - A Networker will be recommended at Council this coming weekend (this person has accepted the job offer).
  - The Personnel Committee met yesterday to secure a Stated Clerk. The recommendation will be made at Council this weekend then send the nomination to Synod Assembly for their vote to employ.
- ◆ Funding from the Innovation Fund was approved for seven projects including
  - Geneva Presbytery – 1001 New Worshipping Community Seed Grant for “Fusion on Fire:” \$2,000 in 2014 and 1001 New Worshipping Community Investment Grant for “Fusion on Fire” \$3,000 in 2014. (“Fusion on Fire” is being housed in Lake Street Presbyterian Church, Elmira)
  - However, the “Let My People Go” at Painted Post was not approved
  - Other Funds that were approved: Unity Cross Fit (Albany), Shared Resource Presbyter (Boston & Northern New England), Cross-Cultural Catalyst (Hudson River), New Beginnings (Newark), New Church

Grant for Iglesias de la Comunidad Unida (Newton), Leadership Academy (African American Caucus).

- ◆ Genesee Area Campus Ministries – University of Rochester Campus Ministry: received \$5,000 in 2014 and \$5,000 in 2015 from the Higher Education Funds.
- ◆ The Eastern Korean Presbytery brought to the attention of Council that 2014 is the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the birth of John Knox. Synod Council voted to incorporate the celebration of John Knox and the Scots confession into worship at the Synod Assembly next month.
- ◆ The Networks Working Group reports that there are potential network ideas coming along such as prison ministry and gun violence. But, it is a process and it takes time.
  - The Coaching network is up and running. The Rev. Dr. Janice Fitzgerald is its Coordinator. You can obtain more information on Coaching through the Link on the Synod Website or contact Janice, Betsey Crimmins, or Anne Wassdorp.
  - We have been told that PPAN (Public Policy Advocacy Network) will be introducing a network. More on this will be in my next report to you.
- ◆ When The New Way Forward is fully implemented, Synod Council will now be referred to as Synod Mission and Ministry Commission.
- ◆ Each Presbytery is being invited to suggest three people to help balance the skills and gifts of Synod Mission and Ministry Commissioners and Young Adult Advisory Delegates each year.
- ◆ This is the last year of annual Synod Assembly meetings. The Synod Assembly will meet bi-annually with a “Big Tent” the year in between. Anyone and everyone may attend our Synod ‘Big Tent,” next year.
- ◆ At the Synod Assembly next month, our own the Rev. Dr. David Ashby will conclude the term as Moderator of Synod Assembly and will now become Moderator of Synod Mission and Ministry Commission. The Rev. Thia Reggio from the Presbytery of New York City will become the moderator of Synod Assembly and there will be nominations and election for Moderator-elect.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia A. Champlin

Geneva Presbytery Representative to Synod Mission and Ministry Commission

