

Synod of the Northeast Report to Geneva Presbytery
May 9-20, 2014, Latham, New York

Synod: New York, New Jersey, Maine, Rhode Island, Massachusetts,
Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire

For the last year and half, I have been the Geneva Presbytery Representative on the Synod Council filling out the remaining term of David Ashby when he became the Synod Moderator. That led to the invitation to remain on Synod Council and also join the New Way Forward task group.

- ◆ For almost three years, under the leadership of the Transitional Leader, the Rev. Dr. Harold Delhagen, our Synod has taken on a brand new look and feel.

- ◆ At the 2013 Synod Assembly, The New Way Forward was voted as our guide for Ministry and Mission in our Synod. This year The New Way Forward is being phased in and as of the October 2014 Assembly it will be fully implemented. There are three working groups: Administrative, Mission, and Networks.
 - The Administrative has almost completed the By-Laws and Standing Rules.
 - The Mission has been working with continuing and new mission partnerships. To list some of the mission partnership --
 - EMI – Early Ministry Institute
 - MATE – Mission At The Eastwood, in Canton, Maine
 - And now Stony Point Conference Center which is led by Co-Directors Rick & Kitty Ufford-Chase
 - The Networks is already up and running. As a member of the Networks, we have reviewed two proposals. One was sent back to the drawing board. The first up and running network came out of Geneva Presbytery. The proposal for Professional Coaching Network was submitted by the Revs. Drs. Janice Fitzgerald and Betsey Crummins and the Rev. Anne Waasdorp . The other co-founders of this Coaching Network includes the Rev. Laura

Ferguson who helped our Presbytery several years ago, plus the Rev. Chip Lowe from Hudson River. In the two months since the Coaching Network originated, a couple of other Coaches have made contact to this network. Coaching is available to and yet not limited to individuals, teaching elders, ruling elders, sessions, congregations.

- ◆ As of October 2014, the Synod Assembly will begin meeting every two years. And in the year between, there will be our own Synod “Big Tent” where anyone and everyone can and should attend to connect, share, learn, pray, and worship together.
- ◆ One of the Synod’s highest priorities is to explore the issues of race in our community. In March, our Synod held a Summit on Race at Union Theological Seminary in NYC. One of the fifty that gathered was Marjorie McIntosh from Geneva Church. She brings to the discussion her views as a new immigrant woman.
- ◆ The Synod has two employment positions to fill
 - Stated Clerk – application deadline is June 10
 - Networker – this person will be the liaison between Council and potential and existing networks within a designated region of the Synod.
- ◆ On May 10, 2014 Synod Council voted that a Special Administrative Review Committee is being established to review the Geneva Presbytery operations. All Geneva Presbytery persons at Synod Council were excused from the room during the discussion and deliberation.

Respectfully Submitted,

Virginia Champlin

Geneva Presbytery Representative to Synod Council

