



## October 2025 Newsletter

***Our Mission:*** *The Presbytery of Geneva lives to support and equip congregations and leaders to be Christ in the Finger Lakes and the world.*

***Our Vision:*** *Radiating the light of Christ, the Presbytery of Geneva thrives as a community of servants, lifting up every congregation and leader in ministering together.*

The purpose of the newsletter is to announce upcoming events and opportunities sponsored by the Presbytery, its congregations, the Synod of the Northeast, the PC(USA), neighboring presbyteries, and partner agencies. If you have an item for the October newsletter, please send the information to [officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org) by **October 27, 2025.**



**For everything there is a season,  
and a time for every matter  
under heaven. Ecclesiastes 3:1**

PHOTO CREDIT: JB HAWKINS PHOTOGRAPHY

**PRESBYTERIAN WOMEN'S**

**FALL  
GATHERING**



**With Special Guest**

**Pastora Evelyn  
Torres - Ramírez**

**17  
OCT**

**First Presbyterian Horseheads  
2943 Westinghouse Road  
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM**

**WORSHIP ~ LUNCHEON**

**RESERVATIONS REQUESTED  
TO [LALOCAT@AOL.COM](mailto:LALOCAT@AOL.COM)**

# Advocacy Training Opportunity in Ithaca, NY

## Connection to Transformation: Building a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities Conference

October 24–25, 2025

First Presbyterian Church  
315 N. Cayuga Street  
Ithaca, NY



Rev. Dr. Kathryn Threadgill



Rashida Tyler



Juana Cortes de Torres, Esq.



Rev. Dr. Rose Niles



Henry-Louis Taylor, Jr., PhD.



Rev. Dr. Eileen Lindner



Rev. Dr. Greg Garis



Michael Borges



Rev. Marjorie Ackerman



Ricardo Witt



Rev. Peter Cook



Elder Larry Beasley



Rev. Dr. SanDaena Gaultman Ashley

This two day event is sponsored by the Synod of the Northeast and the New York State Council of Churches, and will included many great speakers and local advocacy groups.



New York State  
Council Of Churches

Please register at:  
[bit.ly/45pN9yU](https://bit.ly/45pN9yU)  
or scan the QR Code.



Synod of the Northeast

## October 24 1–4pm and October 25 9am–5pm

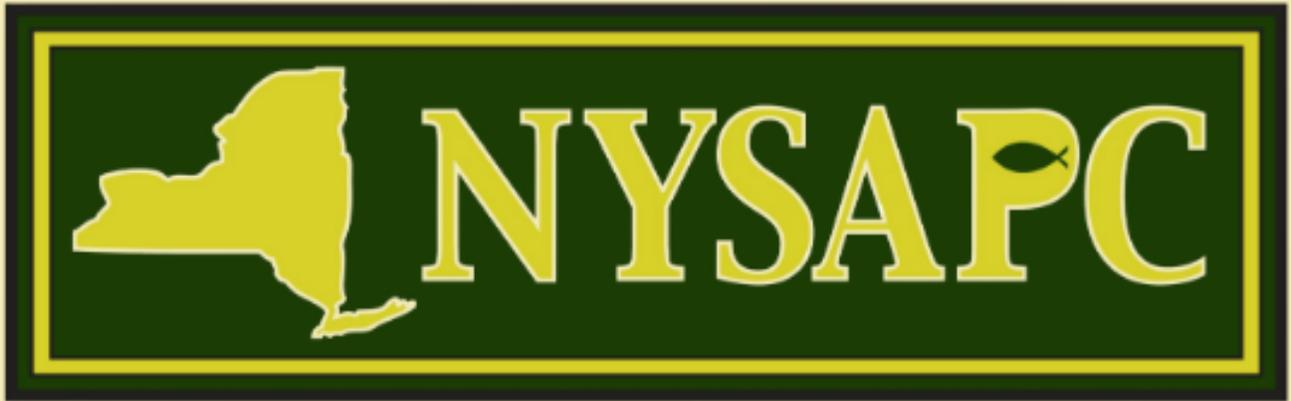
The New York State Council of Churches and the Synod of the Northeast are partnering to host Connection to Transformation: Building a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities, October 24–25, 2025, at First Presbyterian Church in Ithaca, NY.

This powerful two-day gathering begins with the Council's first Regional Advocacy Day—a direct response to faith leaders across New York who asked for more accessible, local opportunities to engage. Regional advocacy days are designed to equip clergy and lay leaders with tools to address pressing issues in their communities, effectively communicate with elected officials, and build lasting networks. This is the first regional Advocacy Day and will bring elected representatives together with faith leaders to focus on the issues facing communities in Western NY. We also encourage faith leaders to attend the Statewide Ecumenical and Interfaith Advocacy Day in March 2026, that will focus on the legislative priorities that impact the entire state and enable faith leaders from different regions to work collectively.

Saturday, October 25 will bring together ecumenical and interfaith pastors, lay leaders, organizers, and advocates from Central and Western New York. The conference will explore how faith communities can foster transformational partnerships through connection, collaboration, and mutuality. Participants will engage in worship, storytelling, workshops, and keynote conversations—all centered on moving from transactional to authentic, justice-rooted relationships. The tools and inspiration for those serving in congregations, nonprofit ministries, and ecumenical initiatives help to build a culture of shared purpose and faithful presence—especially in small towns and rural communities.

Join us as we listen, learn, and reimagine the future of the Church and the communities we are called to serve. Together, we move from connection to transformation.

[Register Here](#)



NEW YORK STATE ASSOCIATION OF PROTESTANT CHAPLAINS

*2025 Chaplains Conference*

October 7-9, 2025

## Inside Out

How many opportunities for incarcerated persons to experience the outside world were lost in the “war on crime?”

The Power of contact between the inside and outside worlds.

*Registration is Open!*

Holiday Inn & Suites Syracuse Airport  
(Formerly Maplewood Suites)  
400 7th N St, Liverpool NY 13088

You must call the hotel 315-451-1511 by September 15 to reserve your room for \$139 - this is separate from the conference registration.



## Unification is happening

Is God calling you to leadership in this unique moment in our denomination's history?

The 225th General Assembly gave the Commission to Unify the Office of the General Assembly (OGA) and the Presbyterian Mission Agency (PMA) a clear mandate: Bring together the OGA and the PMA into one unified agency, aligning our mission and structure for long-term faithfulness and sustainability. That work is well underway.

OGA and PMA are already operating as one organization, provisionally called the Interim Unified Agency (IUA). IUA staff are now shaping the permanent structure and designing how this new body will function so it can faithfully and effectively serve the whole church.

This new agency will need a strong, faithful and wise board to guide it forward. That's where you come in.

Nominations are now open for the first Board of the Unified Agency (permanent name coming soon). You can submit your name to the General Assembly Nominating Committee (GANC) using the nomination form found [here](#). The description for the Governing Board outlines the board's advisory, support, oversight and fiduciary responsibilities, as well as its close working relationship with the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly and Executive Director of the Unified Agency (SC/ED), as well as its partnerships with stakeholders across the church during this ongoing transformation. A diverse group of faithful, knowledgeable, committed people will be nominated to the 227<sup>th</sup> GA (2026) by the GANC as members of this new governance board. Carrying forward this important work will require gifts such as:

- Leadership and professional development
- Strategic, analytical and critical thinking
- Governance and polity
- Financial literacy
- Change management
- Human capital management
- Communication
- Diversity, equity and inclusion

Is the Holy Spirit tapping you on the shoulder as you are reading this? If so, we encourage you to learn more and submit your application today.

We offer God thanks for the faithful ministry of the staff in the legacy agencies OGA and PMA, and the many faithful members who served for years on the Committee on the Office of the General Assembly and the Presbyterian Mission Agency Board. We offer God thanks for the staff of the IUA and their call to ministry in this moment of transition into this new thing God is creating among us.

Now, we invite you to prayerfully consider joining us. This is a rare and pivotal moment in our denomination's history — a time to help shape a unified agency that will serve the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for generations to come.

***Creating an account for the GA nomination process*** — *If you have not previously used the online portal for nominations, you will need to open an account by creating a username, providing your email address and creating a password. After you submit this information, an activation email will be sent to the email address you provided. You will need to click on the link provided in that email in order to activate your account. Once you have activated your account, you can log in using your username and password. If you need assistance, please [email](#) Assistant Stated Clerk/Ruling Elder valerie izumi.*

# News from the Retirees Luncheon

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL DAY FOR THE RETIREES, SPOUSES, AND CRE'S LUNCHEON.

Camp Whitman was a wonderful place to be on this September Day. Twelve folks were in attendance (including Leader Care Committee members) and enjoyed chatting and eating. Bryan Muecke, our camp director, cooked a very tasty meal, which we all enjoyed. Below is a recipe of one of the popular entrees.

After lunch, we enjoyed a presentation regarding camp fun and success, along with goals for the coming years.

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## Crockpot Turkey & Sweet Potato Stew

### Main Ingredients

Brown 2 lbs of ground turkey in 1T of Olive Oil. When turkey is thoroughly cooked, transfer to the crock pot

Saute 1 chopped onion in 1T of Olive Oil and then add to crock pot with turkey

Cube 2 large sweet potatoes and add to crock pot

### Sauce

1/2 cup soy sauce

1/2 cup chicken stock

1 1/3 cup honey

1-2 T of brown sugar

2-3 T of chili garlic sauce

2 t of ginger paste

2 t of garlic

Stir the sauce ingredients together and pour over the turkey and sweet potatoes in the crock pot

Cook on HIGH for 2.5-3 hours

Add 1 Can of Coconut Milk and 1 bunch of chopped green onions/scallions

Turn to low and cook for an additional 30 minutes

Serve over white rice or rice of your choosing. Jasmine or Basmati rice work well.

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Looking forward to RETIREES LUNCHEON 2026

Janet Garvey Barager  
Committee on Leader Care

# Torah Story

## An Apprenticeship on the Pentateuch

Online Course

Tuesday Evenings 6:30–8:30pm

October 7, 14, 21, 28, November 4

Open to anyone

For more information or to register  
for this course, please contact:  
cfranks1128@aol.com

Required Text:

Torah Story

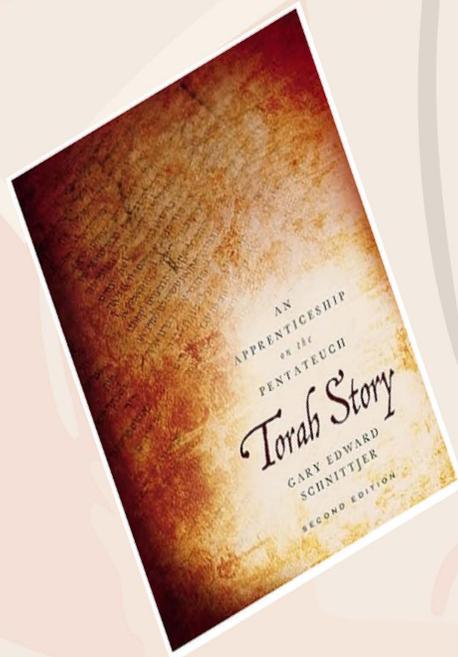
2<sup>nd</sup> edition

An Apprenticeship on the Pentateuch

by Gary Edward Schnittjer

ISBN # 978–0310112778

An accompanying workbook is also available  
for those interested in deeper study



This course counts as continuing education for CRE's in the Presbytery of Geneva

If you would like to make a donation toward the continuation of this ministry, please go to [www.presbyteryofgeneva.org](http://www.presbyteryofgeneva.org) to make a contribution to the general fund.  
Thank you for your generosity.

# Indigenous Peoples' Day



**Arvel Bird**  
**Celtic Indian**  
**Concert**  
**Oct 13th 7:00 pm**

**\$20 - \$40**  
**sliding scale**  
**Seniors 65+ \$20**  
**12 and under FREE**

**First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses**  
**69 E Main St Trumansburg, NY**

Arvel Bird, known as Celtic Indian, embodies the rich heritage of his mixed background—American Indian (S. Paiute from Utah/Metis, enrolled) and Celtic (Clan Kennedy from Scotland). With his violin, fiddle, Native flutes, and Irish whistles, Arvel creates a powerful tapestry of music and storytelling. One of his notable works is the original eight-movement concerto titled “Tribal Music Suite: Journey of a Paiute,” which features violin, flute, Native drumming, and singing. Classically trained as a violinist, Arvel’s compositions and performances blend various styles, including Celtic, bluegrass, and his unique interpretations of Native American folk and Celtic rock music. Between 1986 and 2000, Arvel toured with renowned artists such as Glen Campbell, Loretta Lynn, Tom T. Hall, Ray Price, Louise Mandrell, and Clay Walker. He now focuses on weaving traditional stories about animals and their totem meanings into new music for a rock opera called “Lost Bird.” This project features songs celebrating the resilience, empowerment, and cultural sustainability of the Seventh Generation, both past and present. Some notable tracks include “Red Nations Rising,” “Warriors Unafraid,” “Wovoka’s Dream,” and “Crazy Horse Lightning Warrior,” which depict Native American people rising from the struggles imposed by a dominant culture. After spending years in Nashville, TN, Arvel has now settled in Cottonwood, AZ. He continues to connect with audiences the traditional way – through live performances. This is where his emotionally charged shows flourish, captivating concert venues, symphony halls, festivals, and more, leaving audiences inspired, transfixed, and transformed.



## Honoring the Saints in Our Annual Necrology Report

In honor of upcoming All Saints Day, the time has come for the Annual Necrology Report for the Presbytery of Geneva. We ask that you send information for your congregational Necrology Report by **November 4, 2025** (though any information you have today you can send as this will help those preparing the report to properly recognize all who have passed). Please send the information to [leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:leadercare@presbyteryofgeneva.org).

We ask your assistance in recognizing, honoring and giving thanks for the saints who passed into glory between Nov. 1, 2024 and Oct. 31, 2025, having served this presbytery as Ruling Elders or Teaching Elders. We shall also recognize congregations that have run their race and were disestablished during this time. The reading of the Necrology will be incorporated in our **November Stated Meeting of the Presbytery**.

We always try to capture the most complete record we can for the Necrology Report. It is our heartfelt desire to recognize, honor, and give thanks for each servant who has gone to receive the rewards of their labor. Completeness can only be achieved when we receive this information from the congregations. Last year only 15 churches in the Presbytery responded to this request, so we feel many were left out of this recognition.

We ask the Clerks of Session for the following information if possible:

The first and last name of the individual. Middle names can be added and “nicknames” for middle names are welcome.

A phonetic spelling of any names that are likely to be mispronounced by a stranger. We ask for this information because their names will be read aloud as part of the Necrology Ceremony.

A photo, if provided, will be shown in the presentation as we read the name of each individual. Oftentimes a photo is not available, but if one is, we shall show it.

If you have an ordination date, we will include that in the presentation as well. This piece of information is often difficult to find and is simply a “nice-to-have.”

If you have had a year without experiencing a loss, we would like to know this as well so that we know that your church family is accounted for.

We thank you in advance for your help in this effort to honor our colleagues who have passed into glory.



## Trainings for Training

St. Benedict Center | Schuyler, NE | November 10-13

Rev. Bethany Benz-Whittington is a PC(USA) pastor living in Maryville, TN. She serves as the Stated Clerk for the Presbytery of Genesee Valley in Rochester, NY, and leads Sacred Calls, focusing on progressive faith formation and training. Outside of ministry and parenting, Bethany enjoys exploring creative faith expressions, connecting with community, and fostering inclusive spaces.

See Bethany's work in action at our November event, Trainings for Training - learn more and register at our [website](#) or click the button below.

[Event Registration and  
Information](#)

### Questions?

Contact our Director of Programs, Rev. Tricia Dillon Thomas at [programs@opsf-omaha.org](mailto:programs@opsf-omaha.org)

OAKS CORNERS  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

(5 miles north of Geneva on County Road 6, Pre-Emption Road)

# HARVEST DINNER



**SATURDAY - OCTOBER 18, 2025**

**4:00-6:30 P.M.**

**ADULTS: \$14.00; AGES 5-12: \$4.00;**

**UNDER 5 FREE**

**CHICKEN & BISCUITS, MASHED POTATOES,  
GRAVY, SQUASH, VEGETABLE, APPLE SAUCE,  
DESSERT & BEVERAGE**

**TAKE-OUTS AVAILABLE !!!!**



## The Process of Aging and Implications for Ministry

Our pastors, parents and other loved ones who shaped us are aging. In the Process of Aging and Implications for Ministry course, you'll learn how theological reflection with older adults can help them address the challenges of aging.



You'll examine how congregations, senior-care organizations, families, and caregivers can challenge ageist assumptions and adapt to the diverse needs of aging populations with dignity, equity, and creativity.

In addition, you'll also:

- Uncover the physical, social, mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of aging as an integrated, lifelong process.
- Identify and challenge personal and systemic ageism in caregiving, ministry, and community contexts.
- Design or evaluate programs, services, and ministries that center older adults' agency, dignity, and belonging, informed by current research and best practices.
- Integrate cultural awareness, equity, and inclusion into all aspects of work with aging populations.

### Details

Date: September 22 – October 31, 2025

Location: ONLINE

Facilitator: Zeena Regis

*Zeena holds an M.Div. degree from Columbia Theological Seminary. She is a Ruling Elder in the Presbyterian Church, U.S.A., a hospice chaplain, an author, and a curriculum writer. She serves as the Faith Engagement Manager at Compassion & Choices, the nation's oldest, largest, and most active nonprofit working to improve care, expand options and empower everyone to chart their end-of-life journey.*

The program fee is \$265.

**For additional questions about the course or Older Adult Ministry certificate program, contact [lifelonglearning@ctsnet.edu](mailto:lifelonglearning@ctsnet.edu)**

**[REGISTER NOW](#)**

# Donate to the Presbytery online!

## Presbytery of Geneva

Search 



### Presbytery of Geneva General Fund

Give now



### Camp Whitman

Give now



### Individual per capita contribution

Give now



### Ordination and Installation Offerings

Give now



### Presbytery Meeting Offerings

Give now

Online Giving for Camp Whitman and the Presbytery of Geneva is available from our website. Make contributions to Camp Whitman, the Presbytery's General Fund, Individual contributions to per capita, Ordination and Installation Offerings, and Presbytery Meeting Offerings. This is through the Presbyterian Foundation and long-time partner, Vanco, so it is very secure to use.

On our homepage [www.presbyteryofgeneva.org](http://www.presbyteryofgeneva.org), click on the "Make a Contribution" link or go directly to our Vanco donation page Donate to Presbytery of Geneva. You can select our general fund, Camp Whitman, per capita, Ordination and Installation Offerings, Presbytery Meeting Offerings, and others in the future as we roll them out.





## Top PC(USA) News of the Week



*Week of September 22 - 26*

### [New video: Presbytery of San Gabriel returns ancestral lands to Gabrieleno Tongva Tribal Council](#)

Last month's gathering celebrated reparative justice



### [Years after Hurricane Ian, Wintergarden Presbyterian Church celebrates a job well done](#)

Good relationships with partners helped the southwest Florida church and its surrounding community to rebound from major storm



### [Unification Commission approves new structure and priorities for Unified Agency](#)

Agency will be arranged in four areas of work



### [From the Archives: Presbyterianism in Cuba](#)

The digitization of a 1949 photo album created by the Presbytery of Cuba illustrates the growth of the church



### [Zaccheus Project at church in Greeneville, Tennessee explores political wisdom of Jesus](#)

The small group from First Presbyterian Church seeks to cultivate belonging over othering amidst political and social conflict



# PRC Practical Resources for Churches



## [Purple Church Reflections: Navigating Stewardship in an Age of Polarization](#)

Thursday, Oct. 2, 2025  
2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT  
Leader – Greg Allen-Pickett

## [Reclaiming Confirmation](#)

Tuesday, October 7, 2025  
2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT  
Leader - Kirsten Trachsel

## [Online Presence in 2025 and Beyond](#)

Thursday, October 9, 2025  
7:00 – 8:00 PM EDT  
Leader – Eric Seiberling

## [Cross-Cultural Ministries](#)

Tuesday, October 21, 2025  
7:00 – 8:00 PM EDT  
Leader – Kim Pope-Seiberling

## [Resisting Erasure and Isolation as Pathway to Belonging](#)

Thursday, October 23, 2025  
2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT  
Leaders - Craig Lemming, Erin Weber-Johnson

## [Practical AI for Churches](#)

Tuesday, October 28, 2025  
2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT  
Leader – Eric Seiberling

## [Full Day VBS - it's not that scary!](#)

Thursday, October 30, 2025  
2:00 – 3:00 PM EDT  
Leader – Kelsey DeCarlo



Presbyterians for Earth Care is inviting young adults ages 18-35 to join the Creation Action Network of Presbyterian Young Adults - CANOPY! Together, this group is connecting, educating, learning, and taking action in solidarity with creation and with one another. To learn more, visit their Instagram (@canopy\_pec), complete their interest form ([bit.ly/CANOPIYInterestForm](https://bit.ly/CANOPIYInterestForm)), or email Emma Marshall, CANOPY's organizer, at [pecyaorganizer@gmail.com](mailto:pecyaorganizer@gmail.com). Join us, and share with a friend!

CLIMATE ACTION NETWORK  
OF PRESBYTERIAN YOUNG ADULTS

# Our Mission

*We are a community of faith-filled justice-seekers, inspired by the Holy Spirit and informed by the Presbyterian tradition. We come together to advocate and act for environmental justice and creation care, magnifying our voices and power as a new generation of leaders. Heeding the call to love God and to love our neighbors, human and non-human, we seek to:*

- *Connect through diversity, geography, and experience to build collective power,*
- *Educate and learn through experience- and knowledge-sharing to inspire action, and*
- *Take action with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love in solidarity with creation.*



## Upcoming events

FALL 2025

FRI  
SEPT 26 THRU SUN  
SEPT 28

Jesus and Justice Young Adult  
Advocacy Conference  
Lansing, MI

MON  
SEPT 29  
7:30pm-8:30pm EDT

CANOPI Meeting  
Zoom

THU  
OCT 8 THRU SAT  
OCT 11

Presbyterians for Earth Care  
Conference  
Little Rock, AK

TUES  
OCT 28  
1:00pm-2:00pm EDT

CANOPI Meeting  
Zoom

SUN  
NOV 16  
4:30pm-5:30pm EST

CANOPI Meeting  
Zoom

TUES  
DEC 9  
8:00pm-9:00pm EST

CANOPI Meeting  
Zoom

In 2020, Union Presbyterian Seminary sponsored a grant program called PSCE (Presbyterians Supporting Christian Education). This began as an opportunity for those interested in Christian Education, but was quickly expanded to include CRE/CPs. The program with these two streams of cohorts has been very successful and has helped many in these important ministries.

The PSCE program provides cohorts of about eight people with a facilitator for support, education, and spiritual growth. The groups meet once a month for a year, and are offered a small stipend for their participation. Cohorts meet on Zoom and are made up of folks from around the country.

Information about the cohorts is below. Applications are due by November 30, 2025.

For those who have questions, please contact:

Marilyn Johns, D.Min./PSCE Board  
[marilynjohns2@gmail.com](mailto:marilynjohns2@gmail.com)

## **P.S.C.E. – Presbyterians Supporting Christian Education**

Union Presbyterian Seminary

**SUPPORTING THOSE SERVING IN  
ALL AREAS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND  
COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS (CRE/CP)**

### **OUR COHORT INITIATIVE ...**

Union Presbyterian Seminary's PSCE initiative continues to raise the profile of those serving in all areas of Christian Education and has expanded to the support of those serving as CRE/CP (Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned Pastor).

### **WHAT MAKES OUR COHORTS UNIQUE?**

- Cohorts meet 10-12 times in a calendar year.
- Stipends are paid to participants twice a year (total \$500) to cover the cost of all materials for the cohorts.
- Cohort meeting times, topics and formats are decided by those in the cohort. The cohort can choose to meet on a specific day each month, or change the day each month.
- Facilitators are provided who are prepared to help with the administration of the cohort, and to help facilitate the work of the scheduled meetings.

### **HOW DO I APPLY?**

- Complete the Application Form linked here for either Educator or CRE/CP.
- Choose the days and times that best work for you.
- Each applicant is evaluated by the PSCE Board of Directors.
- If you are selected, complete a W-9 IRS form to allow Union Presbyterian Seminary to issue stipend checks to you.

### **WHAT WILL THE FOCUS BE?**

EACH COHORT DECIDES!

### **WHAT WILL THE COST BE FOR ME?**

None - PSCE cohorts are supported by the initiative, and participants receive a stipend for your participation, and to offset the cost of any materials

### **WHAT WILL BE THE STRUCTURE AND FOCUS OF MY COHORT?**

Your cohort will decide this together

### **WHAT WILL I HAVE TO ORGANIZE AND MANAGE?**

Nothing – Your cohort facilitator will handle this – you just mark the meetings in your calendar

### **WILL I HAVE TO TRAVEL TO BE IN A COHORT?**

No! All cohorts meet on Zoom. All you need is a computer/laptop/tablet/phone that has a camera and microphone

### **WHY NOT JOIN US?**

No reason! You are invited to complete the brief application which is found at <https://www.upsem.edu/psce/>

### **BE PART OF THIS INITIATIVE!**

For further information, contact [Marilyn Johns](mailto:Marilyn.Johns@upsem.edu), Registrar



# Continuing the legacy of the Presbyterian School of Christian Education

## COMMISSIONED RULING ELDERS COHORTS

The ministry of Commissioned Ruling Elder/Commissioned Pastor (CRE/CP) is a treasured aspect of service in the PCUSA. The purpose of the CRE/CP initiative, an expansion of the Presbyterians Supporting Christian Education (PSCE) program, is to strive to provide collegial, personal, and professional support through cohorts with others who are serving as a solo CRE/CP in a church.

Each participant must have a current commission in effect, serving as solo pastor in a congregation. Topics for engagement by participants may include spiritual disciplines and practices, seasonal needs in the church's program year (i.e., Advent, church school, Session meetings, educational opportunities), and the sharing of the needs and concerns of each participant. Preparation for meetings may include short reading assignments.

## CHRISTIAN EDUCATION COHORTS

For the sixth year, Union Presbyterian Seminary is providing a program of support and encouragement for Christian educators by providing cohorts.

This program continues the legacy of the great institution, the Presbyterian School of Christian Education.

Educators (lay and professional) and Ministers are invited to participate in one of the cohorts for the 2026 calendar year. The cohorts will meet monthly and will provide the following:

- Collegial and collaborative experiences for participants.
- Personal and professional opportunities for growth
- A sharing of resources for the educational ministry of the church

**Apply at [upsem.edu/psce](https://upsem.edu/psce) today!**

# Connection to Transformation

## **Building a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities Conference**



### **SAVE THE DATE**

#### **A Collaborative Conference with the New York Council of Churches**

The Synod of the Northeast, in collaboration with the New York Council of Churches, is excited to present:

#### **Connection to Transformation: Building a Partnership Culture in Faith Communities Conference**

**Saturday, October 25, 2025 9:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

*First Presbyterian Church  
315 N. Cayuga Street  
Ithaca, New York*

This gathering will bring together ecumenical and interfaith pastors, lay leaders, organizers, and community advocates from across the Central and Western New York region to explore how transformational partnerships can emerge when faith communities center connection, collaboration, and mutuality. Through worship, storytelling, interactive workshops, and keynote conversations, participants will reflect on how churches can move beyond transactional relationships toward deeper engagement that reflects the love and justice of Christ in our small towns and rural communities.

Whether you serve in a local congregation, a nonprofit ministry, or an ecumenical initiative, this conference will offer tools and inspiration for building a culture of authentic partnership rooted in shared purpose and faith.

Join us as we listen, learn, and reimagine the future of the Church and the communities we are called to serve. Together, we move from connection to transformation.

**Registration will open in July! Stay tuned for registration details and speaker announcements.**

[Read Article on Website](#)



# CHURCH FINANCIAL LEADERSHIP COACHING PROGRAM



## A program for pastors

At the Presbyterian Foundation, we recognize the importance of supporting pastoral leaders and the congregations they serve, particularly in church financial literacy and leadership. That's why we've established a coaching program to help address the challenges pastors face while promoting sustainability and growth in ministry.

The Presbyterian Foundation's Church Financial Leadership Coaching Program is a free, 12-month coaching opportunity designed to walk alongside pastors. Our program equips pastors with the essential building blocks to improve church finances, stewardship, and mission.



Contact your MRO



Visit the Coaching Program  
Website



Download Coaching  
Program Guide



### Rev. Dr. David Loleng

Vice President, Church Financial Literacy and  
Leadership and Stewardship Education  
800-858-6127 ext. 5901



**Spiritual Formation & Coaching Fall  
2025**

**Spiritual Formation**



**Virtual Contemplative Retreat  
Celtic Spirituality  
November 10th - 11th**

This retreat will focus on Celtic Spirituality and use the Celtic Daily Prayer book as our guide. You will receive a retreat box to facilitate your time and there will be Zoom calls for contemplation and conversation throughout.

There are 2 ways you can participate in the retreat space:

- **Stay Home!** You can do the retreat at home and get reimbursed for your food up to \$100 for your entire food orders.
- **Go Away!** We will pay for your overnight accommodations up to \$250 for your entire stay. You are responsible for your own food.

*There is limited space for both get-away and stay options so sign up today! Deadline September 26th*

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



**Sabbath Innovation Lab Presents  
Sabbath as Resistance with Brian McLaren**

**Tuesday October 7th  
6:30 - 8:00pm EST**

When the world is on fire can I really afford to take time to rest? Or can I really afford NOT to take time to rest? This conversation with Brian will focus on how sabbath and practices like contemplative prayer, enjoying the outdoors, creative and artistic pursuits keep us grounded and invite us to show up as a force of love and good in a world on fire.

[SIGN UP HERE](#)



## Coach Training



### **Mental Fitness Coach Training with Rev. Libby Tedder Hugus** **Monday Sept 29th 4pm - 5:30pm EST**

Libby Tedder Hugus led us in a training this past spring around the neuroscience behind Mental Fitness: how Sabotage Brain works against us; and how Sage Brain works with us. Now she is back with a follow up training!

#### **Mental Fitness: Where Resilient Brains & Coaching Intersect**

[Part Two] Evoking Awareness & Facilitating Growth in Clients. Begin to practice evoking Mental Fitness awareness in clients. Discover powerful questions that facilitate mentally fit growth in clients, inspiring them to live from the intersection of power, integrity and action.

[Watch Part One Here!](#)

[SIGN UP FOR PART TWO HERE](#)

## Sabbath and Sabbatical Grants are OPEN!



**Get your ZEN on and apply for a Sabbath/Sabbatical Grant TODAY!**

NWC Leaders of at least 2 years can apply for 1-2 Week Sabbath Grant for \$1500.

NWC Leaders of at least 5 years can apply for 4-6 Week Sabbatical Grant for \$3500.

***This Grant Cycle will be open until NOV 7th!***

[APPLY HERE](#)



# Create a Ceramic Labyrinth

Looking for a “tool” to enrich your prayer or meditation life?  
The First Presbyterian Church of Ontario Center invites you  
to create a ceramic labyrinth.

**Tuesdays, October 7 & 21 @ 2 pm**

Bread Box Art Studio, 4081 Ridge Road Williamson, NY

Cost \$35, payable at first session

Register by emailing: [ocpcadmin@verizon.net](mailto:ocpcadmin@verizon.net)

(Space is limited)



*Share Your*  
**PHOTOS**

Send us your pics! If your church has photos of recent events to share,  
please email them to the presbytery office at:

[officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org)

before the monthly deadline (found each month on page 1)  
and they'll be added to the next newsletter.