



## January 2026 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 February newsletter, please send the information to [officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org](mailto:officeadmin@presbyteryofgeneva.org) by **January 26, 2026.**



# Happy New Year!





SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

## Church Treasurer Training Webinar

The Synod of the Northeast will offer a *Church Treasurer Training* webinar on **January 27 at 6:45 p.m.**, led by **Diane Case** and **Edd Brenden**. This Zoom-based training is designed for church treasurers and financial leaders seeking practical guidance, clarity, and confidence in managing congregational finances.

The session will provide hands-on instruction and dedicated time for questions and discussion. Participants will explore ten core topics essential to effective and faithful financial stewardship in the local church:

- Basic Best Practices
- Handling Inflows
- Handling Outflows
- Keeping Good Records
- Supplying Accurate Reports
- Donor Statements
- Avoiding Fraud
- Financial Reviews
- Exemptions
- Security Issues

### About the Presenters



**Edd Brenden** has been an ordained pastor for more than 50 years, serving five congregations and the Presbytery of San Jose (California) as Treasurer for over 20 years. A graduate of Fuller Theological Seminary, Edd has served churches in Minnesota and California, worked with Merrill Lynch, and owned his own tax preparation firm. He is the author of several books available on Amazon, including *The Church Treasurer's Manual*, *The Handbook for Church Treasurers*, *The Volunteer's Audit Guide*, and his autobiography, *The Drunken Preacher*.

**Diane Case** holds a business degree with a concentration in nonprofit organizations from Fresno State University (California). She has served as the full-charge accountant for the Presbytery of San Jose for 32 years, bringing deep expertise in church and nonprofit financial management.

Together, Edd and Diane have led church treasurer trainings for more than 20 years, equipping congregational leaders with practical tools to reduce anxiety, increase accuracy, and strengthen financial stewardship.



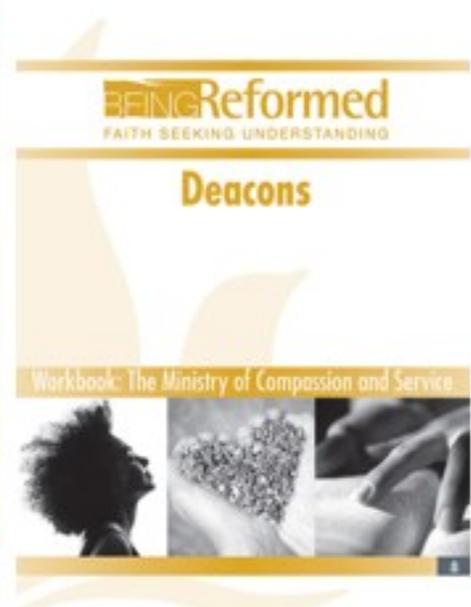
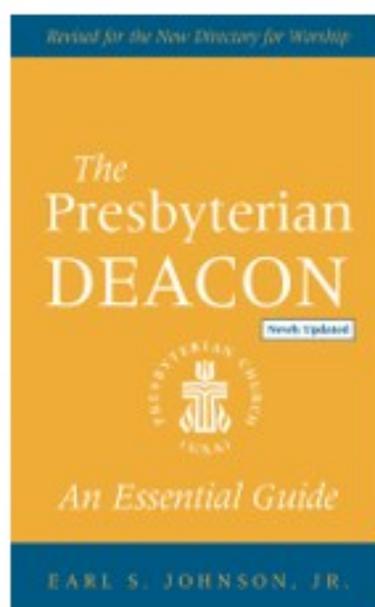
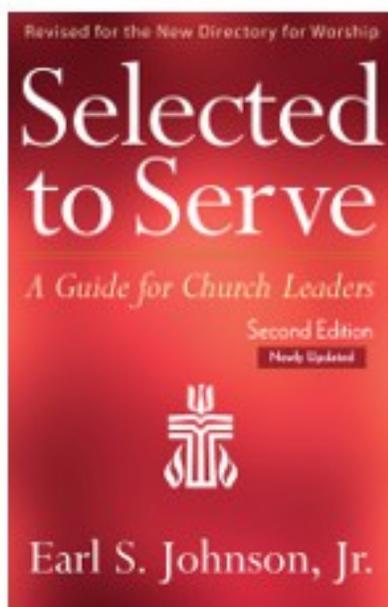
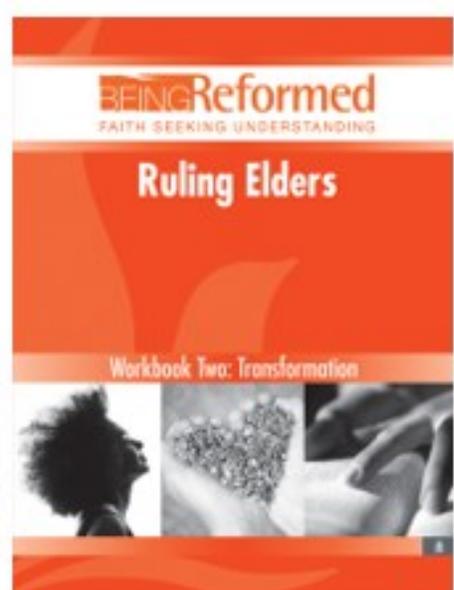
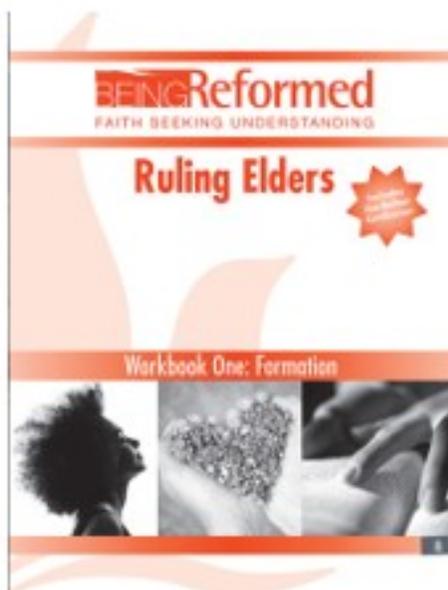
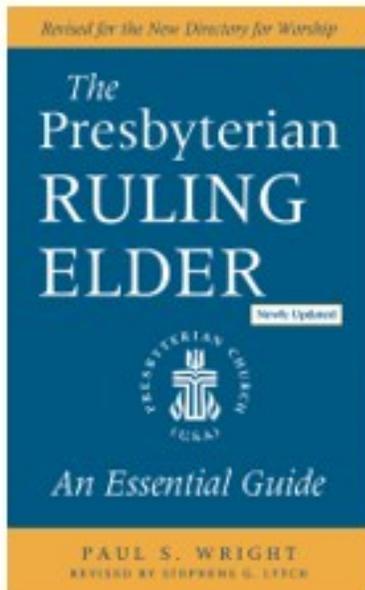
[Register in advance for this meeting:](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

# Need Officer Training Materials?

check these out at the PCUSA store

<https://www.pcusastore.com/>





SYNOD OF THE NORTHEAST  
Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

## **Position Announcement**

### **Mid Council Resident for Programs, Leadership Development, and Administration**

**Location: Remote (must reside within the Synod of the Northeast)**

**Status: Full-Time, 2-Year Term (Only)**

The Synod of the Northeast invites applications for a two-year, full-time Mid Council Resident. This residency offers emerging leaders an immersive introduction to mid council ministry, emphasizing leadership development, program coordination, governance, administrative support, and relational systems work.

The resident will work across key initiatives—including the Robert Washington Scholars Program, Early Ministry Institute, and Community Organizing Cohort—and will engage in a variety of areas such as governance, grantmaking, program and resource development, event planning, contracting, and skills development applicable to both church and nonprofit ministry.

Administrative responsibilities include meeting support, managing registrations, overseeing the Foundant grant system, building relationships with Caucus Groups, budgeting, negotiations, coordinating electronic communications, and implementing automation processes.

This position requires travel approximately 25% of monthly work hours

### **QUALIFICATIONS**

- Theological degree (M.Div., MA in Theology/Ministry) or equivalent ministry/nonprofit experience
- Strong communication, presentation, organizational, and interpersonal skills
- Digital literacy, online grant and project management skills
- Event Registration
- Knowledge of virtual meeting tools, data management, reporting, and cloud based collaboration platforms



- Security and Privacy Awareness
- Flexibility, discretion, and ability to work remotely
- Valid driver's license
- Ability to lift 30 lbs

**BENEFITS & TERM:**

Full-time, two-year residency with competitive salary ranging between (\$75k- 78k), BOP Employee Medical Coverage, 10 vacation days, paid holidays, and professional development opportunities directed by the Synod Leader.

**HOW TO APPLY**

Interested candidates should submit a cover letter, resume, and three references by January 10th to: [sandawna.ashley@synodne.org](mailto:sandawna.ashley@synodne.org)

[Download Announcement in PDF Format](#)



St. Andrew's  
G U E L P H

**St Andrew's Presbyterian Church**, Guelph, Ontario, Canada, a congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, **is seeking its next Lead Minister and Head of Staff**. St. Andrew's, 'Present and Caring since 1822', is located in the heart of a university city of 144,000, about a one hour drive from Toronto. The congregation is vibrant, inclusive and compassionate, with a very strong mission heart and a passionate commitment to know and be the love of Christ. The facility is beautiful and in excellent repair.

Please contact The Rev. Kirk T. Summers, Interim Moderator, at [ktsummers@standrewsguelph.com](mailto:ktsummers@standrewsguelph.com) or by phone at 416.795.3542.

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## Online program provides insight into challenges of Alaska Native congregations

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



LOUISVILLE — A recent episode of the [Presbyterian Hunger Program's](#) Solidarity Hour provided insight into the unique challenges and cultural richness of the Alaska Native communities that are part of the [Presbytery of Yukon](#).

The episode featured the Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, [Co-Moderators of the 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#), who reflected on a fall 2025 trip to Alaska that also included fellow webinar guest the Rev. Irvin Porter, a [U.S. Global Ecumenical Liaison](#) for Native American Congregational Support for the Interim Unified Agency of the PC(USA).

The Rev. Elizabeth Schultz, executive presbyter of the Presbytery of Yukon, also spoke during the Solidarity Hour, an online series by PHP's [Global Solidarity Collective](#) that helps Presbyterians learn about and be in solidarity with communities affected by colonialism and systemic oppression.

"It's a monthly space for U.S.-based Presbyterians to learn, reflect and take action together toward healing the ongoing harms of the Doctrine of Discovery," Eileen Schuhmann, associate for global engagement and resources for PHP, explained during the program.

Viewers got a chance to hear about the October trip, which included visiting multiple churches, such as [Utqiagvik Presbyterian Church](#), and meeting many people of faith.

"I come home from that experience with abiding gratitude for the hospitality, with a huge appreciation for the vastness of the space of Yukon Presbytery that is a presbytery unlike any of our others," Larson said. "When we flew from Anchorage to Utqiagvik, it was like getting on a plane in South Carolina and flying to central Massachusetts" but remaining in the same presby-



The Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Rev. Tony Larson, Co-Moderators of the 226th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), traveled to Alaska earlier this year. (Photo by Rich Copley)

The trip also provided insights into the ways that common Christian practices and terms, such as elder, don't always mesh well with Indigenous traditions, and revealed "how we show up as a church and how we partner and how we do solidarity work," Larson said.

The trip to the top of the world included visiting Utqiagvik, a name that reflects the ancestral language of Indigenous people in the area.

"This community was known as Barrow, and it was named for a British Admiral, and it was named by a British explorer, and in 2016, the community — the council — decided to decolonize that and to change the name back to the original name, Utqiagvik, which is also the name of the Presbyterian Church," said Cindy Corell, a U.S. Global Ecumenical Liaison who hosted the episode.

Larson noted that some of the struggles that Alaska Natives have endured are similar to those suffered by Indigenous people in other parts of the country. Some of those common threads include families that have experienced the negative impacts of boarding schools or efforts to separate them from their native languages.



U.S. Global Ecumenical Liaison Cindy Corell hosted the webinar.  
(Screen capture)

"This is not just shadows of the past entirely," Larson said. "They linger with us."

After witnessing a funeral during the trip, Armstrong was struck by the similarity between some of the customs she observed in Alaska and those of people in the South Carolina Lowcountry.

"When people spoke at the funeral regarding the one who was deceased, they walked up and sang first before they spoke, and then they walked away in song, and that's exactly what happens in the Lowcountry," she said. "It made everybody in sync for the moment that they were there. And I found that to just be one of the warmest parts" of the trip.

Later, Armstrong shared a kernel of an idea about pairing churches in Alaska with churches in the lower 48 states to create a continual connection between them. That would be one way to show that "we are still a connectional church and we're working on relationships to get there," she said.

Although many of the churches in Yukon presbytery are small, they are vital to their communities, Schultz said.

"These churches are the hubs of these communities," she said. "Even when they are in some state of disrepair, they are still the place where everybody gathers for a funeral, or a significant religious event, throughout the year."



The Rev. Elizabeth Schultz

However, efforts by the greater church to decolonize mission have left voids, and there are day-to-day struggles, Schultz explained.

For example, in these communities of 200-300 people, “we don't have young families going sometimes,” and there can be “intergenerational trauma and the reality of addiction and social struggle in these communities,” she said.

Many people still hunt for their food, and “it does not work to overlay Presbyterianism” by saying that “a church needs to have Sunday morning worship services, and you need to have a session of eight elders,” she said, and “mission pastors are no longer coming.”

Schultz also noted that several factors, including the sheer vastness of the Yukon presbytery, can make ordinary things like having a once-a-year, in-person presbytery meeting difficult.

“We welcome in and try to fly in all of our ... Alaska Native members, so that they continue to stay connected and be a part of our family,” she said.

However, it can cost \$1,400 to travel from a distant community, weather can be problematic, and even meeting online can be a struggle, she noted.

“In Alaska, the communities don't have internet service that's consistent, so sometimes their Zoom works, sometimes it doesn't,” she said. Also, “a lot of these churches are now very small and held together by a commissioned lay pastor in their 80s that may or may not have the technology ... (or the connectivity) to get on a Zoom meeting.”

Porter shared about his work, noting that he started with the PC(USA) in June 2013 to provide support for Native American congregations. Since 2001, he's also been a part-time pastor of [Church of the Indian Fellowship](#) in Tacoma, Washington.



The Rev. Irvin Porter

[In his work for the PC\(USA\)](#), he works with 98 Native American congregations throughout the country, including Alaska, doing training workshops for leaders, such as elders, deacons and clerks of session, and being the primary contact for scholarships and other grants.

He also discussed the Native American Church Property Fund and how it has helped to repair buildings that are more than 100 years old in some cases.

Some other aspects of his work include holding workshops on topics, such as dismantling the Doctrine of Discovery, understanding the Indian boarding school experiment, and exposing the unlawful adoption of Native American children. It is encouraging when congregations request these workshops, which are usually done online, so that they can “understand more fully what Native Americans have endured in American society,” he said.

# Donate to the Presbytery online!

## Presbytery of Geneva

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### Presbytery of Geneva General Fund

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### Ordination and Installation Offerings

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### 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*



### [Governors of Utah and Pennsylvania have an Rx for preserving democracy](#)

Republican Spencer Cox and Democrat Josh Shapiro spoke last week to a packed Washington National Cathedral



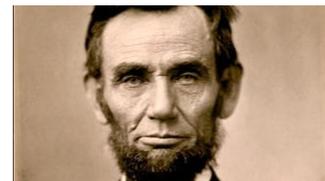
### [Cape Cod immigration advocate to receive human rights award](#)

Presbyterian leader honored for ministry with immigrant and LGBTQ+ communities



### [With malice toward none](#)

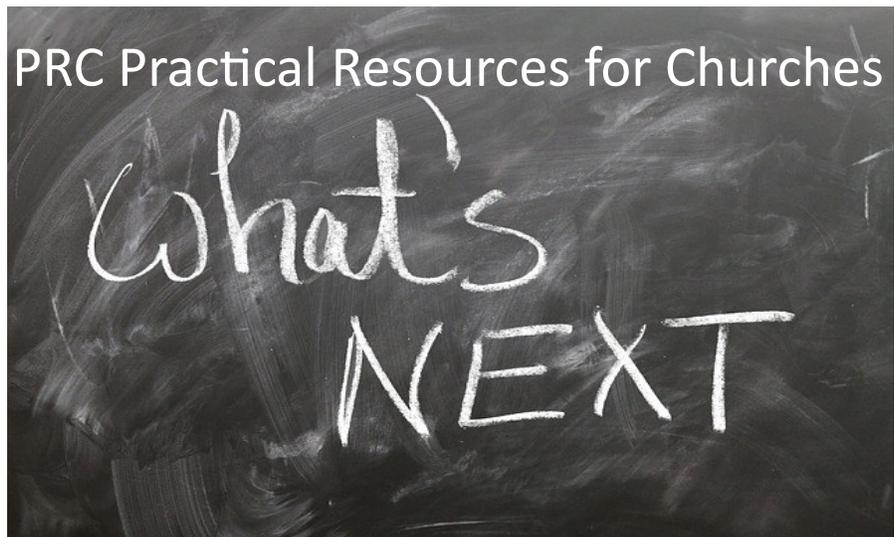
New York Avenue Presbyterian Church in Washington, D.C., hosts a discussion on civility featuring thoughtful voices on both sides



### ['Pickleball Church' finds financial stability through innovative building use](#)

Presbyterian congregation on Long Island rents out social hall as pickleball court





## Upcoming PRC events

[Full Day VBS Roundtable Discussion](#), Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST, Leader – Kelsey DeCarlo

[Time Management for Pastors: practical helps and deeper considerations](#), Thursday, January 8, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST, Leader – Laura Stephens-Reed

[Cross-Cultural Ministries](#), Tuesday, January 20, 2026, 7:00 – 8:00 PM EST, Leader – Kim Pope-Seiberling

[Resisting Erasure and Isolation as Pathway to Belonging](#), Thursday, January 29, 2026, 2:00 – 3:00 PM EST, Leaders - Craig Lemming, Erin Weber-Johnson



Save the Date!

**03**

**07**

**26**

MONTH

DAY

YEAR

Congregational  
Learning Day

The Presbytery of Genesee Valley cordially invites you to Congressional Learning Day. All are invited!! A variety of classes both morning and afternoon will be offered with Inspiring worship in between. Hope to see you there!!

## 2026 Mileage Rate Increased to 72.5 cents per mile

The IRS has set the 2026 mileage rate as 72.5 cents per mile, which is up 2 cents from last year. If you are doing any reimbursements for your church members, Presbytery committee members, pulpit supply, or moderator supply, please be aware of the change. Here is the information from the IRS website.

<https://www.irs.gov/newsroom/irs-sets-2026-business-standard-mileage-rate-at-725-cents-per-mile-up-25-cents>



### FREE COMMUNITY DINNER

Thursday, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, at 5pm in the fellowship hall.

Watkins Glen Presbyterian Church  
520 North Decatur Street  
Watkins Glen, New York 14891



Share Your  
**PHOTOS**



New  
email  
address?



New staff  
or session  
member?



Upcoming Event?

### Please share!

If your church has photos of recent events, has news of an upcoming event, or some updated information to share, please email the presbytery office at:

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