

2016 Challenge to Change (Ch 2 Ch) Grant



A Work of Art – Appreciating and Promoting the Arts in Chester, NY

The 1st PC of Chester had an unused space behind their sanctuary. This space had at one time been used as a chapel but was converted to a gym in the 1960s. The gym, too, had fallen into disrepair. Recently, one of their members and his brother-in-law, both artists, approached their Session with an idea: perhaps the space could be renovated and become a venue for activities relating to the exposition of the arts. That idea was expanded to include providing a safe and nurturing space for fellowship to the surrounding community where the creative spirit of the arts could be exhibited and taught along with activities that are just plain fun. To help with this project, the Chester church applied for and received a \$7,000 grant from the HRP Ch 2 Ch fund in 2016.

Now, a year later, the Chester church estimates that they have accomplished 60 to 75% of the ambitious goals they set in 2016 and will complete the project later this year. However, the project itself has had an impact on the Chester church as well: various forms of artistic expression are becoming more common in their services, and members of the surrounding community, though not members of the Chester church, are helping complete the renovation.

Do you or a member of your church have a great idea that reflect the mission and core values of the Hudson River Presbytery but that idea could use some financial assistance? Please visit the [HRP grants web page](#). There you will find information about the various grants our Presbytery offers as well as those offered by our Synod and the General Assembly. And you will also find application forms there.