

2017 Challenge to Change Grant



“Five Wishes Workshop”

The Pleasant Plains PC in Dutchess County recognizes themselves as a “greying” congregation with a surrounding demographic much the same, where families try to make end-of-life decisions without knowing the loved one’s wishes. Five Wishes is an advance directive that can help avoid some of this confusion and distress. It is unique among living wills in that it speaks to the whole person: not only their medical issues, but also personal, emotional and spiritual needs. The workshop guides participants through completion of essential documents, and also offers advice on how to structure conversations with families and physicians. Their proposal was to offer a free workshop to about 50 participants from their congregation as well as the surrounding area on Five Wishes, and also host a community meal at the end. Of their anticipated \$2,000 budget, they applied for, and received, \$1045.95 through the 2017 Ch 2 Ch Grants program.

On April 21, 2018, the congregation of Pleasant Plains PC welcomed both members and visitors to a workshop on the Five Wishes living will document, led by Pastor Luanne Panarotti and Elder and Nurse Practitioner Sandy Rexhouse. People attended for all sorts of reasons, but what it all boiled down to is this: they want to be themselves, throughout all life’s changes and at its end – and a living will is one way to help make it so. Through a combination of video, personal anecdotes and group discussion, participants were able not only to explore the medical and legal issues surrounding end-of-life, but also, articulate their desires with regard to their emotional, spiritual and personal needs. With the workshop completed, the gathered community celebrated their accomplishment with a luncheon and fellowship.

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 Home page (<http://hudrivpres.org>) and simply click on “Grants.” There you will find information about all the grants our Presbytery offers as well as those offered by our Synod and the General Assembly. And you will also find application forms there.