

Central New York Missional Structures Team

April 26, 2019

Esteemed moderators, stated clerks, and chairs of councils,

Over the past month, the discernment team for the Central New York Missional Structures (CNYMS) project has met twice to continue strategizing and preparing for the first step in this process – to listen with discipline and intention.

The team has been working together to develop the listening process and strategy. We have considered some of the strategies engaged by the Synod during its transition (which gave us the New Way Forward) and by the New Jersey Missional Structures process. As I continue to support the work of the CNYMS team, I observe several principles that are core to the way they are developing this listening process:

- A **commitment to a process that is transparent and accountable** to the presbyteries
- A **desire to listen to the needs, aspirations, and hopes** of Presbyterians throughout Central New York
- A **commitment** for the discernment and invitations **to be guided by the input and experiences of the listening sessions**
- An **intention to listen to as broad a base as possible** of leaders in the presbyteries – both current leaders and stakeholders, as well as those who may not be active in presbytery life but are deeply committed to faithful and missional work elsewhere.

We are thinking there will be 3 to 5 listening sessions in each presbytery at this stage of the discernment process. Each presbytery team is considering the best ways to invite folks into these listening opportunities. During the next stage of the discernment process, the CNYMS team will host open forums in each presbytery to report what they have heard and to listen further. We will share more information about this step once we are there.

During the next few weeks, the whole team will be working to develop a guide for the listening sessions, including the specific questions our presbyteries will consider together. We are striving for questions that will help participants articulate the needs, hopes, and aspirations you have for presbytery life and resourcing.

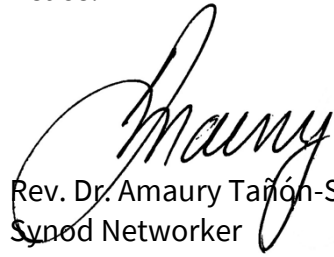
Please find below our working (and ambitious) schedule for the discernment process. This is a guide to help the team identify benchmarks and prepare for next steps. As we all engage in this process together, we may need to amend the schedule. However, in good Presbyterian fashion, we are striving to avoid both “undue haste” and “undue delay” (Book of Order W-3.0403).

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We continue to ask for your prayers. The words of Habakkuk (2:2-3) remain an encouragement and guiding promise to us in this process. We hope they will likewise inspire our presbyteries to have confidence in what God is already doing in our midst: “it’s on its way. It will come right on time” (Habakkuk 2.3b, The Message).

Should you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to reach out.

Peace!



Rev. Dr. Amaury Tañón-Santos
Synod Networker

on behalf of the CNY Missional Structures Team
atanonsantos@synodne.org
732-476-4880

CNYMS Working Schedule

Late Spring-Summer

Schedule and hold listening sessions

Mid-July

CNYMS Team discernment retreat (processing the listening sessions)

July into September

Writing of the listening process report and sharing with presbyteries

Early Fall

Presbytery-wide open forums

Early-mid October

CNYMS Team discernment retreat (processing the presbytery forums)
CNYMS Team begins writing an invitation

Mid-November

The invitation is shared with the presbyteries for their consideration