

**Vision & Strategy Report**  
Presbytery Meeting Jan. 22, 2024

### 1. BENEVOLENT CARE GRANTS DISTRIBUTION

Benevolent Care Grant Fund Policy: "The purpose of this fund shall be to provide benevolent grants to institutions that assist in the care of elderly persons within the bounds of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery."

Money available for 2023: \$11,463. Amount of requests: \$16,450.

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Basic Overview Of Request</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Amboy Belle Isle United Church	Purchase gift cards for shut ins	\$250.00
Collamer United Church	Food supplies for 2 dinners	\$500.00
First United Church of Fulton	Start-up costs for coffee house	\$700.00
Westminister Manor	Replace equipment in hair salon	\$4000.00
Presbyterian Manor	Capital Improvements	\$11,000.00

#### **Grant Distribution**

Amboy Belle Isle	\$250.00
Collamer United Church	\$500.00
First United Church of Fulton	\$700.00
Westminister Manor	\$4000.00
Presbyterian Manor	\$6013.00

### 2. WORSHIP WORKGROUP

The worship workgroup's focus is on creating meaningful and memorable worship that honors God as it provides an opportunity for communal engagement and models creativity and ideas to take back to our congregations. At the November presbytery meeting, worship was led by Elder Lynn Jacques (Vice Moderator) with the ongoing theme of resilience. Flexibility and the ability to bend in the midst of change was highlighted by the illustration of trees with deep roots, enabling them to withstand storms. It was further symbolized by a take home reminder of a bendable pencil and a challenge to choose between "standing on the promises" of our faith or "sitting on the premises."

Elder Jacques also led a unique liturgy as we celebrated communion, with Rev. Ken Wonderland assisting. The liturgy was entirely sung, rather than spoken, including sung congregational responses. In addition, we were pleased to debut a choir under the direction of Mary Heather Harrington (King Ferry) as it provided both meditative and joyful song.

For the sake of clarity and communication, the workgroup has created guidelines for participants when presbytery meetings are held in-person. Our next task is to work on guidelines for worship when held via Zoom.

### 3. ONGOING COMMITTEE WORK

The committee continues to follow a process to discern an overall vision for the work of the presbytery that centers on how to best serve the needs of the churches in Cayuga-Syracuse and to fulfill the commitment to being a Matthew 25 presbytery. We are also continuing our work of evaluating the new presbytery structure. We welcome input for our work from the body at large.

### 4. NEEDS

The committee is still in need of volunteers to form a communications workgroup in support of the Communications Director and increasing communication in general within the presbytery. We are also looking for people who are interested in serving on a workgroup to provide fellowship and connectional opportunities.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Debra L. Thomas, Chair