

Committee on Representation
October 1, 2025

Present:

Cayuga-Syracuse: Shavonn Lynch (Chair), Roger Dilmore (Auburn), Barbara Adams (Scipioville)
Susquehanna Valley: John Helgeson (Chair), Hemant Tandi (Endicott), Brandi Conner

We held a joint meeting with Susquehanna Valley. During the meeting, we discussed concerns that we share as presbyteries.

1. Inclusivity – How do we address representation within the participation and leadership of the church and our presbyteries
2. Small church inclusion – how do we ensure that small churches without pastoral leadership are included in the conversation
3. Geographical landscape – how do we reach churches that are on the edges
4. What is the perception of the church – how do we ensure that people who are searching for a church home feel acceptance within the church
5. How do we effectively share the good news of the gospel to address inclusivity
6. What are concrete ways we can encourage people to become interested in serving as part of the diverse body of Christ?

We discussed the need to define our goal as a committee. Shavonn will draft a statement of inclusivity for the team to review. Statement will include appropriate references to the Book of Order and reflect on Isaiah 56:7 - “For My house will be called a house of prayer for all the people.”

Respectively submitted
Pastor Shavonn Lynch