

Joint Justice Team

Meeting by Zoom Tues., September 2, 2025 4:00 P.M.

Attendance: Monica Styron (Cayuga-Syracuse), Earl Arnold (Owego), Bruce Gillette (Owego), Chris Burger (Binghamton United), Sharye Skinner (Cazenovia), Eric Adamcik (East Syracuse)

Opening Prayer: The meeting opened at 4:06 p.m. with with the lyrics of Carolyn Gillette's new hymn, "Jesus You Once Blessed the Children".

Minutes: The minutes from the June 30 meeting had been distributed but were not reviewed.

Transgender: Monica reported that the presentation by Stephanie Nawyn and Carolyn Wolfe-Gould took place in August. Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery paid honoraria of \$250 each to the two presenters. Chris noted that the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery still has \$1,200 budgeted for justice programming.

ACTION: On motion by Earl Arnold, seconded by Chris Burger, the Susquehanna contingent voted to reimburse Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery for half of the honoraria, namely \$250. Monica will forward to Chris the address to which to mail the check.

Palestine and Gaza: Monica reported that the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse put on a webinar about Palestine on August 24. A recording of this event is available and the group was encouraged to make it available to be shown in area churches.

There was brief discussion of the Academy Award winning documentary film *No Other Land*.

Attention was called to the statement on Palestine recently made by the GA Stated Clerk, that includes the term "genocide." A copy of the text is attached.

Monica reported that the sub-group that is focusing on the issue of Palestine is at the point of identifying "where from here?" for their next recommendation.

Chris suggested that the persons on this Joint Justice Team be added to the mailing list of the other presbytery's newsletter.

Racism: Monica reported that Cayuga-Syracuse will have a speaker on racism at its presbytery meeting on September 17. Bruce asked if we could publicize the time at which that program will happen, so that others could be invited to hear it on line. Earl suggested that we request it to be made an "order of the day" item so that the time would be predictable.

It was suggested that the Rev. Ashley DeTar Birt of The Center for Jubilee Practice may be available to speak at a presbytery meeting or a webinar for churches at a later date.

Immigration: Bruce shared that there will be a webinar about the dangers faced by immigrants in the United States, "Hope in Time of Peril," on September 10 at 6:00 p.m. It is presented by the Interfaith Immigration Coalition, of which the PCUSA is a sponsor. See [Facebookwww.facebook.com › events › 4282752442051623](https://www.facebook.com/events/4282752442051623).

Bruce reported that he has visited Roger Wang, the owner of a restaurant in Owego, who is being held in the ICE detainment center in Batavia. He is scheduled for a hearing in a couple weeks.

Workers Over Billionaires: Earl reported on the Labor Day rally in Binghamton. Sharye reported that there was a similar one in Hamilton.

Geneva and Genesee Valley Presbyteries: Monica reported that Geneva Presbytery has indicated interest in joining the merger discussions with Cayuga-Syracuse and Susquehanna Valley, and that

Genesee Valley Presbytery may also be interested. She is in touch with Joanne Tunison of Geneva Presbytery's Mission and Witness Committee and will invite her to our next meeting.

Other: there was mention of other issues:

Stop Plastics initiative, including movie *Plastic People*

No natural gas hook-up in new residential buildings

Webinars that Chris has offered and are available

Movement toward Authoritarianism

Developing a “statement” or overture for presbytery action

Next Joint Justice Team meeting: The next meeting of the Joint Justice Team was set for Tuesday, October 14, at 1:30 p.m.

Closing Prayer was led by Eric, and the meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted, Earl Arnold