

Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery COM Report
Presbytery Meeting September 16, 2024

Greetings weary travelers over the last several months the COM has been busy doing the normal items that are required. We are working to help the Congregations who are in transition. Those will be mentioned below. We would like to remove some of these bodies from this list, but the search process is difficult and is taking longer than in years past. Some congregations are on the list because they have been asking questions or working through some process or temporary relationships. The congregations who are searching and working through CLC are Auburn Westminster, Jamesville, Fayetteville, and Sennett. The other congregations are trying to figure out next steps or just maintaining the status quo. Auburn First, Aurora, Cazenovia, Chittenango, Fulton, Morrisville, and New Hope/Parish. Park Central is working through a temporary relationship and asking questions about what is next. South Valley is closed but not quite as the Presbytery realized there were some resources that needed to be discharged. We have been facilitating the installations of Eric Adamcik and Courtney Steininger. Please welcome them to our Presbytery. We are still looking for some mentors, moderators, and interim ministers. If you know of someone or you are willing to be part of this process, please let the COM know. We are also looking at some ways to streamline the whole COM duty list and make sure that the pieces we are responsible for are kept in one place. This includes, terms of call, boundary training, moderators, minister at large/validated ministry, roles and registers, and liaisons to name a few. We have discussed the FOA and how we might move forward with clergy in those relationships. There are some things that we have done but were inappropriate to remain decent and in order. We are also working on the dissolution agreement and how it does not apply to some of our congregations. In a recent training the FOA (Formula of Agreement) suggests some ways that we might need move forward together and we might have made a few mistakes in the past. They also suggested, from a CLC representative that CLC is not the only answer to the search process. Again. If you are using the Board of Pensions you need to begin thinking about how you and the Church are going to handle the changes starting this coming year. Luke Choi from BofP is willing to help. Ken and Sue Wonderland are also willing to help with questions and the process and as interpreters. . We also have suggestions for Terms of Call for the upcoming year and there are several options for discussion.

There have been a few background checks done and calls to other Presbyteries for checks. The folks who are part of COM are also doing several jobs or filling positions within the Presbytery. We need for you all to realize that there are not many clergy to fill the expected roles. There is also a number of Ruling Elders who are serving in many ways to help the Presbytery stay decent and in order. We continue to hope for more help and more communication. We are trying to reach out to congregations and not receiving return calls. We did vote to start an AC for the purpose of exploring the next most faithful step for the folks of New Hope/ Parish. We are looking at ways to house the information we are tasked with, such as background checks, boundary training, and those in validated ministries/ MAL. Please help us so that we can make sure that we continue to be decent and in order.

Respectfully submitted, Shawn Reyburn