

Focus & Coordination Team March, 2026 Update

Your Focus and Coordination Team has been meeting every 2 weeks for the past month or so, and this has proven beneficial. Additionally, our Asst. To the Lead Presbyter, Rev. Mary Anderson has joined us for the last several meetings and this is a welcome addition.

Listed below are some highlights of what we are doing and anticipating over the course of the next few months:

- *There will be a Joint Gathering of the two presbyteries on May 16 at the First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia. The meeting will feature Rev. Bill Carter to speak on the recent merger which resulted in Mountain Laurel Presbytery with time allocated for questions. We are hopeful there will be good attendance.

- * The Team will be submitting a grant application by April 1 to the Synod requesting funds to support the hiring of a Merger Coordinator to assist the committee with its work.

- *Our Lead Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Greg Garis, presented us with a first draft of a “Future Vision for a Merged Presbytery.” We have begun talking in depth about this and will keep you abreast of developments.

- *We have also begun talking about what a “new structure” for a merged presbytery might look like—how best to serve and support churches and the overall mission of the “new presbytery.”

- * We continue to see greater collaboration between many committees and commissions. This is exciting and we are grateful for this as we believe this will make an eventual merger easier if conversations and sharing of ideas and resources is well underway.

Thank you for your support and prayers as we move forward.

Lenten Blessings,

Focus & Coordination Team