

**Report from the
Lead Presbyter for Transformation**
To the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
June 13, 2026

General Comments:

I continue to work with both Susquehanna Valley and Cayuga Syracuse Presbyteries by visiting congregations for worship and preaching occasionally. Also, I work with the committees of the Presbyteries. I'm happy to have Rev. Mary Anderson working with me as the Assistant to the Lead Presbyter. If you need guidance or input for committees, please do not hesitate to reach out to me at leadpresbyter@cayugasyracuse.org Presbytery

Activities: March 5 – June 3, 2026

- Met with the CEO and staff of InterFaith Works of Syracuse in person March 5
- Attended the Genesee Valley Presbytery Learning Day Antiracism class via Zoom on March 7
- Attended in person worship and assisted with the Lord's Supper and installation of an Elder at the Bovina Church on Sunday, March 8
- Met with the Executive Team of S-V Presbytery via Zoom on March 9
- Met with Treasurer of C-S Presbytery on March 10 via Zoom
- Met with the COM of C-S Presbytery via Zoom on March 10
- Met with S-V Presbytery Administrative Commission Chairperson via Zoom on March 10
- Attended in person the Presbytery Meeting of C-S at the Scipioville Presbyterian Church in Scipio Center on March 14
- Attended in person Worship of the Morrisville Community Church in C-S Presbytery, March 15
- Met with the Focus and Coordination Team via Zoom on March 16
- Met with Presbytery leaders and Ruling Elder of S-V Presbytery to talk about merging Presbyteries via Zoom on March 17
- Met with the PNC of 1st Delhi Church via Google Meeting on March 17
- Met with a pastor colleague of S-V Presbytery via Zoom on March 17
- Met with the Session of the East Guilford Church via Zoom on March 17
- Met with the sessions of the Bainbridge and East Guilford Church via Zoom on March 17
- Met with the Synod of the NE Presbytery Leaders via Zoom on March 19
- Attended in person the Memorial Service for Rev. Al Sunderwirth at the Owego Church on March 21
- Attended in person the worship services of Otisco and Columbian (Lafayette) Churches on March 22
- Attended the Cabinet meeting of Sus Val Presbytery via Zoom on March 25

- Attended via Zoom the 6 Presbyteries planning meeting on March 26
- Attended in person Worship and brunch after worship at the Skaneateles Presbyterian church in C-S Presbytery on March 29
- Met in person with the PNC of Jamesville Community Church(PCUSA/UMC) and First Presbyterian Church in Chittenango at the Jamesville Church on March 30
- Met in person with the PNC of the Conklin Presbyterian Church on March 31
- Attended in person the Maundy Thursday service at Binghamton United Presbyterian Church on April 2
- Met with the Focus and Coordination Team Via Zoom on April 6
- Met with the antiracism Team of Sus-Val via Zoom on April 7
- Attended via Zoom Sus Val Presbytery COM meeting on April 7
- Met in person with members of the Focus and Coordination Team at the First Presbyterian Church of Cazenovia on April 9
- Met in person with the cluster of pastors of Sus Val Presbytery in Oneonta for lunch on April 10
- Attended Worship at the Bainbridge/East Guilford Churches for Rev. Ken Sumurro's last Sunday and attended a after church lunch on April 12
- Attended in person C-S COM meeting in Skaneateles on April 14
- Attended in person Sus Valley Presbytery's Assembly meeting at the Conklin Presbyterian Church on April 18
- Preached and led worship for the Bainbridge/East Guilford Churches on April 19
- Attended the Synod of the Northeast Presbytery Leaders gathering in person in Skaneateles on April 19-22
- Attended via Zoom the 6 Presbytery planning group for the Event in September on April 23
- Attended via Zoom the Board of Pensions virtual Summit with Luke Choi on April 23
- Led conversation via Zoom on the Gil Rendle monograph "Reimagining and Remapping the Religious Landscape" on April 23
- Met in person with the Session and members of the Deposit Church on April 24
- Attended in person the ordination/installation of Deborah Lee at the Bovina Church on April 26
- Attended via Zoom the Focus and Coordination Committee on April 27
- Led conversation via Zoom on the Gil Rendle monograph Reimagining and Remapping the Religious Landscape on April 30 (part 2)
- Attended GA training for Commissioners via Zoom on May 11
- Attended C-S COM meeting in Lafayette on May 12
- Attended in person an Open House of Jeremiah Pottery at the Former Hancock church on May 12

- Met via Zoom with a pastor from C-S Presbytery on May 13
- Reviewed Worship for May 16 Joint Presbytery gatherings with the Assistant to the Lead Presbyter on May 13
- Attended and led some of the program for the Joint Presbytery gathering at the First Presbyterian Church, Cazenovia, on May 16
- Met with the Focus and Coordination Team Via Zoom on May 18
- Met with a Clerk of Session of one of the C-S Presbytery congregations on May 18
- Attended in person a Pastor's gathering of C-S pastors at the Liverpool congregation on May 19
- Met via Zoom with Presbytery Leaders from the Synod on May 21
- Attended in person the Worship service for Park Central Presbyterian Church in Syracuse NY, (C-S Presbytery) and moderated the congregational meeting afterward on May 31
- Met via Zoom with the CORD Team for C-S Presbytery on June 1

Focus and Coordination Team

The Focus and Coordination Team is pleased with the May 16 Joint Gathering of both Presbyteries in Cazenovia. We believe over 90 people attended and we were reminded that God goes before us during worship. We had a lively Presbytery Trivia Game, which helped people hear some interesting facts about people and churches. Rev. Bill Carter, Pastor of the Clarks Summit Presbyterian Church, gave us some background of how Lackawanna and Lehigh Presbyteries merged and gave us a top 10 list of what he suggests is important in a merger of Presbyteries. There is a PowerPoint available for anyone who wishes to review his presentation. Please email me at greg@susvalpresby.org to receive it. The team is planning on providing a similar gathering closer to Susquehanna Valley Presbytery. Also, the team has applied for a Synod of the Northeast grant to help fund a merger Coordinator.

Presbytery Committees working together:

- CPM (Committee on Preparation for Ministry) of C-S and CCleF (Commission on Christian Leadership and Formation) of Sus Val
- Social Justice Committee of C-S and Justice in Mission of Sus Val
- Both COM gathered to discuss and hope to resource each other in the near future
- Finance Committees of both Presbyteries will meet soon
- HR of C-S and the Personnel Committee of Sus Val have worked together and want to become one Co.

Activities looking forward to:

- Joint gathering of COM from both Presbyteries meeting Rev. Luke Choi, the Board of Pensions Church consultant on June 11, Lafayette, NY

- General Assembly Committees, via Zoom, June 22-24
- General Assembly Meeting June 27- July 2 in Milwaukee WI

Vacation: Jan. 20 = 1 day; Jan. 29 - Feb. 2. = 5 days; May 22-30 = 9 days

Gratefully and Respectfully Submitted By

Rev. Dr. Greg Garis
Lead Presbyterian for Transformation