

**Report from the
Lead Presbyter for Transformation
To the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse
January 21, 2026**

General Comments:

I am grateful to have begun work with Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery on October 1st. It has been a joy visiting churches in the presbytery, getting to know pastors and congregations, working with PNC's, and even preaching for one church. I am also grateful that Rev. Mary Anderson is now working alongside me in the ministry of this Presbytery and with Susquehanna Valley Presbytery. I will continue to visit with congregations for worship, preach occasionally, and work with the committees of the Presbyteries. Susquehanna Valley Presbytery is learning to share me with Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery, and being part-time in both Presbyteries will be a change from the full-time work of Resource Presbyters you have had in the past. But please do not hesitate to contact me if you need some assistance.

Pre Oct 1st

- Attended Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery meeting via Zoom on Sept. 17
- Met with Stated Clerk and COM chair of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery in person (two separate meetings) on Sept. 18

Activities: October 1, 2025 – Jan 8, 2026

- Met with COM co-chairs of Susquehanna Valley Presbytery via Zoom on October 1
- Lead worship, preached and administered the Sacrament of communion on Oct. 5 at the Hamden PC (Delaware Trinity Covenant of Churches)
- Attended a meeting with the regional representative for the New Worshipping Communities a Pastor and a ruling elder on Oct. 6 via Zoom
- Met with the Personnel Committees to interview candidates for the Assistant to the Lead Presbyter on October 7 at the Columbia Presbyterian Church in Lafayette
- Attended and helped facilitate the Focus and Coordination Team meeting on October 8 in Cortland
- Attended, worshipped and videoed the East Guilford/Bainbridge worship service and meeting after on Oct 26 at the East Guilford Church
- Attended, helped with worship and attended the reception for the closing service of the Hancock Church on Oct. 26
- Attended and reported to Cabinet via Zoom on October 28
- Attended via Zoom a meeting with another Presbytery Leader regarding a movement in Minnesota of faith leaders Oct 29
- Attended a leadership gathering of Susquehanna Valley and Cayuga-Syracuse Presbyteries regarding the vision statement from the Focus and Coordination Team in Cortland on Nov. 1
- Met with the HR Co. & Personnel Co. of the Presbyteries via Zoom on Nov. 3
- Met with the Interim Pastor & the Session of Delhi First Pres.
- Met via Zoom with the Funding Model Development Team, GA staff member on Nov. 5
- Met via Zoom with CLC (Church Leadership Connection) staff person Manuel to discuss how our churches can search for pastors in a better way on Nov. 6
- Attended the Sus Val Presbytery Assembly meeting in person on Nov. 8 in Walton

- Attended in person the Mid Council Leaders conference in Louisville, KY, on Nov. 9-12
- Preached at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Auburn on Nov 16 and led an adult forum study after worship on the merger of the Presbyteries
- Met with Presbytery colleague in Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery in Syracuse on Nov. 18
- Met in person with the COM of Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery on Nov. 18
- Attended via Zoom the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery meeting on Nov. 19
- Met with PNC of Northminster Presbyterian Church in Endwell in person on Nov. 24
- Attended worship at the Union Presbyterian Church in Endicott on Nov. 23
- Attended worship at First Presbyterian Church, Johnson City on Nov. 30
- Met with the Executive Team on Dec. 8 via Zoom
- Attended the NYS-mandated Sexual Harassment Prevention Training Webinar on Dec. 9 via Zoom, offered by PRC (Practical Resources for Churches)
- Attended the Cabinet Meeting of Sus Valley Presbytery on Dec. 9
- Met with the Focus and Coordination Team on Dec. 11 Via Zoom
- Met with the Conklin Presbyterian Church Session re: retirement of their pastor and the next steps
- Worshipped in person with the Weedsport Church on Dec. 14
- Met with the Weedsport pastor Brian Copeland for lunch on Dec. 14
- Met in person with the Cincinnatus United Presbyterian Church Congregation and Session on Dec. 16
- COM interview of possible candidate for the Bovina church via zoom on Dec. 17
- Worshipped in person with the Baldwinsville Presbyterian Church on Dec. 21
- Preached and led worship at the Conklin Presbyterian Church on Jan 4
- Met with Board of Pensions Church consultant Rev. Luke Choi via Zoom on Jan 5
- Attended via Zoom Cayuga-Syracuse CORD meeting Jan. 5
- Meeting in person with member of the Focus and Coordination Team Jan. 6 in Johnson City
- Meeting via Zoom with HR of C-S Presbytery and Personnel Committee of Sus Valley Presbytery Jan 6
- COM meeting via Zoom for Sus Valley Presbytery Jan. 7
- Meeting via Zoom with COM liaisons of C-S regarding PNC meeting on Jan. 7
- Meeting with PNC of Jamesville and Chittenango First via Zoom in C-S Presbytery on Jan. 8
- Meeting with CLC staff via Zoom on Jan 9
- Meeting with immigration lawyer via Teams on Jan. 9
- Meeting in person with Session and PNC of Northminster Pres. Endwell on Jan 9

Focus and Coordination Team

The Focus and Coordination Team is planning more intentional communication regarding the merger of Cayuga-Syracuse and Susquehanna Valley Presbyteries this month and a joint meeting for the purpose of relationship building in May or June. This team is also considering hiring a merger coordinator to facilitate some of the merger process.

Assistant to the Lead Presbyter

I'm grateful to have Rev. Mary Anderson working with me in ministry for both Presbyteries. Please email me at leadpresbyter@cayugsyarcuse.org if Mary or I can support or assist you in ministry.

Great Lakes Call Finder

The COM agreed for the Cayuga-Syracuse Presbytery to try for one year the Great Lakes Call Finder. This employment listing will help churches search for interim pastors, church secretaries, Church musicians, and janitors. Please feel free to look at this website and search for a job or post a job. I am the administrator of for this Presbytery and will be alerted to any activity. <https://greatlakescallfinder.org/>

Continuing Education:

January 5, 12, 19 and 26 "The Rise of the Nones" livestream offered by Homebrewed Christianity

Vacation: October 19-24 = 16 days

Bereavement leave Oct. 13-17

Vacation: Nov. 30-Dec. 6 & Dec 29-30

Gratefully and Respectfully Submitted By

Rev. Dr. Greg Garis

Lead Presbyter for Transformation