

On behalf of the Coordinating Council, I bring greetings from the Synod of the Northeast. As a Presbytery, we are required to endorse and approve the Bylaws and Standing Rules of the Synod.

At our April Presbytery meeting we will be asked to vote on the current bylaws and standing rules that were approved by the Synod at its October 2014 Assembly. Briefly, I will share with you the Synod's work over the past few years. As part of the "New Way Forward," the Synod has restructured to form a streamlined functioning direction for its work. The work of the former Synod Council (now know as the Synod Ministries and Mission Commission) will be supported by three working groups. These groups are: the Mission Working Group, the Networks Working Group and the Administrative Working Group. The responsibilities of these three groups are articulated in the new By-Laws and Standing Rules.

I encourage each of you (especially Presbytery commissioners) to take the time to go to the Synod of the Northeast website (www.synodne.org) and click on: **By-Laws and Standing Rules from the Synod Assembly 2014**, then click on [Synod Bylaws Adopted Oct. 25 2014](#) or [Synod Standing Rules Adopted Oct. 25 2014](#) to read the current bylaws and standing rules. Please familiarize yourselves with these so that you can make an informed response when the vote is called.

For a further explanation of the makeup and responsibilities of the Synod Ministries and Mission Commission, I draw your attention to Standing Rules SR 3.000 and 3.100, specifically lines 105-137. As a Presbytery we are encouraged to send three nominations to this Commission from which one will be selected to serve on the Commission. In addition, I draw your attention to Standing Rule SR 3.300, lines 139-210 that explains the functions of the three working groups of the Synod.

If you have questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at any time.

Rich Will,
Moderator, Presbytery of Northern New York
Convener of the Synod Mission Working Group