

## Charge to Rev. David Bennett

on assuming the role of Resource Presbyter of the Presbytery of Northern New York

Acts 16: 9-10 - “During the night Paul had a vision; there stood a man of Macedonia pleading with him and saying, “Come over to Macedonia and help us.” When he had seen the vision, we immediately tried to cross over to Macedonia, being convinced that God had called us to proclaim the good news to them.”

- Explain use of periscope in submarines
  - Remain undetected
  - Narrow vision
  - Continuously look all around, but focus on something seen
  - If something is sighted, tempting to focus on that and fail to keep looking around
- Presbytery in recent times has had a ‘narrow’ focus - problem solving; putting out fires
  - Needs a new vision - a broader vision of all that God is doing within our bounds
  - Needs a new vision - a vision of what God has truly gifted us to do; of what kingdom work God is placing in front of us
- We are like the man from Macedonia - We have called you to “Come over and help us.”
  - We have not asked you to do it for us
  - We have not asked you to take over and take charge
  - What we have asked you to do is to help us:
    - Help us see the vision that God has placed before us
    - Help us see the big picture, not just the narrow focus of individual churches
    - Help us to see ourselves as an ‘interconnected Council of the Church’ through which the unity of the Church is expressed
    - Help us to see ourselves as not being sufficient by ourselves to do that which God has called us to do, but rather as needing each other so that the unique gifts of each congregation can be brought to bear together to witness to the Lordship of Jesus Christ in the world
    - Help us to be nurtured, guided and governed by each other through the voice of the Presbytery in such a manner that glory is given to God by our mutual witness.
- May God’s blessings be upon you as you undertake this challenging call; may ministry and mission of Jesus Christ be the blueprint for your time with us and may the guidance and comfort of the Holy Spirit sustain you throughout your time with us. Amen.