



THE PRESBYTERY OF NORTHERN NEW YORK

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A)

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The mission of the Presbytery of Northern New York is to witness, with love, to Jesus Christ in word and deed. The Presbytery is called to inspire and support the growth of leaders and congregations in their ministry and mission for Christ.

Update from the Coordinating Council Dream Team – September 2019

In the April Presbytery meeting, members of Council heard your concerns about the long-term financial sustainability of the Presbytery. Many churches have benefitted from our new staffing model, with Resource Presbyter Rev. David Bennett providing vital assistance to local congregations, Commission on Ministry, and the Council. You want to be sure that we are able to continue this important ministry for years to come. We hear you.

Since November, the Council has formed a visioning group to explore better models for Presbytery funding. At the June Presbytery meeting in Plattsburgh, we shared a PowerPoint presentation that provided details of a three-year plan to make the Presbytery financially sustainable. The new model will draw on funding from three sources: Per Capita giving, pledges to Presbytery, and Trustee-managed financial reserves.

Here are the changes that we can expect, beginning in 2020:

- Per capita will increase to \$30.00, better reflecting the real costs of our current staffing model. This reflects a \$5.00 increase to the Presbytery's portion of the per capita assessment.
- Every church will be asked to make an annual pledge to Presbytery. Local churches have complete discretion on how to fund their pledge. You may wish to write this into your budget as a line item. You could take a special offering on a "Presbytery Sunday." Or, you could hold a fundraising event and pass the proceeds through to the Presbytery. We hope to receive \$41,000 in pledges, so dream big. We also anticipate that there may be some individuals who wish to make a Presbytery pledge, just as they would to their local church.
- We will continue to draw from long-term reserves that are managed by the Trustees and held in the Presbytery's Wells Fargo account. For 2020-2022, we anticipate drawing \$30,000 each year from these reserves.

A mailing with a pledge card will soon be sent to all churches. The June PowerPoint presentation will be repeated at the September 28 Presbytery meeting in Lisbon for all who missed the Plattsburgh gathering. We plan to make this presentation available as a YouTube video so that it may readily be shared with sessions. We thank you for your concern for the Presbytery's future, and we invite you to partner with us in sustaining the dream.

Grace & Peace, Rev. Joann White & Linya Bell

Rev. David Bennett
Resource Presbyter

William Young
Treasurer

Pieter Visscher
Stated Clerk

Mary McGreevy
Bookkeeper

Joan Merritt
Administrative Coordinator