

# Webinar #3

## How will the Albany Presbytery Invest in Future Ministry?

### Participants:

First Name	Last Name	Church/Worshipping Community/Organization
David	Bennett	First Presbyterian Church Ballston Spa
Joyce	Brewer	Hoosick Falls
Lynn	Brown	Spencertown
Tim	Coombs	Trinity Presbyterian Church
Terry	Diggory	Presbyterian-- New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Springs, NY
Donna	Elia	First United, Hoosick Falls and TAUM
Arthur	Fullerton	Westminster Presbyterian Church
Chandlee	Gill	Presbytery
Tom	Gregg	West Charlton PC
Jerry	McKinney	United Church of Granville
MJ	Pattison	HUPC
Karen	Pollan	Delmar Presbyterian Church
Daniel	Rogers	Albany Presbytery
Laura	Rogers	COM FUPC Troy
Shannan	Vance-Ocampo	Albany Presbytery Staff
Barbara	Wheeler	United Church of Granville

## **Comments typed in during the Webinar:**

**David Bennett**

Can you elaborate on the competencies needed for 21st century pastors?

**Tom Gregg**

If what Tim just said is true, why aren't we hearing about what's being seen from this balcony view?

**Jerry McKinney**

Tim's last comment was very helpful. We need a clear understanding of our context and the needs that context presents. I'm hoping we can get "unstuck" from the term "post-Christendom." Presenting the good news of Jesus Christ and the claims that this good news makes on our lives individually and together is what we need to learn and re-learn.

I think Tom Gregg has raised another good point--the more things change the more they stay the same. Maybe that is the case until we get it right.

**MJ Pattison**

It seems like a popular thing to say that "churches aren't a building" but "worshipping communities" as if they are one but not the other. I wonder what the church looks like if we don't have any buildings (Gathering points for worship) and if we have some buildings, how do we decide who gets a building and who doesn't - will it really come down to the buildings that survive are the ones who have money or would we be strategic about our worshipping places?

**Barbara Wheeler**

I have experience with two congregations that would have appeared, perhaps, to be in chaplaincy mode--neither able to support a full-time pastor. One, Granville, to which I belong, merged with the church of another denomination in town; the other, East Hebron, is full of missional energy, though it has too few people to stand on its own. We don't know yet what will happen there, but I'm sure that the church--meaning the people--will not go out of existence. We will seek a way for them to continue in some form or alliance. Just because a congregation is weak does not mean that the Presbytery does not have a ministry in that place: the challenge is to discover what that is and how to make it possible.