

Webinar #3

How will the Albany Presbytery Invest in Future Ministry?

Post Webinar Email Feedback sent to the Panelists:

Jerry McKinney

United Church of Granville

Dear Kim,

I thought this Webinar went very well. In fact, I think this has been a very good experience and one I would hope we can repeat for other things.

I want to express my thanks to Tim & Doug for the work they did. I would hope that they can put the information together in "report" form that can go to Council.

I particularly appreciated holding up the marks of the church, the Reformed notes, and the Great Ends. I think we need to constantly remind ourselves of what it means to be the church and what are God-given mission is.

I also appreciate the new terminology you presented for triage (something we have talked about constantly throughout my 23 years in the Presbytery). I think one of the challenges presented by the "chaplaincy" model is death & resurrection, as opposed to "near death and resuscitation."

Thanks again for your thoughtful presentation.

Grace & peace,

Jerry

Terry Diggory

New England Congregational Church, Saratoga Springs, NY

My question about the balance between "top down" and "bottom up" decision-making got translated into a dichotomy between Presbyterianism and congregationalism. I believe this is a

false dichotomy. "Bottom up" decision making does not discard connectionalism. It simply recognizes that the initial energy for the connection arises in the local congregation. Presbytery has a great deal to offer congregations by helping them connect with each other, tap into expertise, and benefit from economies of scale. But if Presbytery starts by saying "this is what we want you to do," congregations won't want to do it. A dominant impression I have derived from three years on the Triennial Visit Task Force is that for most people in our congregations, Presbytery is at best irrelevant, at worst a pain in the neck. I believe that Presbytery can be of real benefit to congregations, but it first has to overcome a bad image. The first step is listening to congregations. The "Holy Cow" survey did not do that because most of the voices heard were from people already involved in Presbytery.

Peace!

Terry Diggory

Pam Woodman

Malta Presbyterian Church

Hi Kim,

The phrase "assisting, equipping congregations". How **is** presbytery doing that? How **will** presbytery do that? I haven't seen much "assisting, equipping" in the past. Does the task force have any ideas? None were presented that I heard.

Some people shy away from churches with a denominational name in the title such as Presbyterian. These people have a preconceived notion what the service is about because of the name. Perhaps some of the churches can remove "Presbyterian" from their name to open the possibilities. How would a church go about doing that?

Peace,

Pam

Linda Martin

First Presbyterian Church of Broadalbin

There was much good information presented and I appreciate it all. I have one concern for those of us who serve rural congregations - we need to be tech savvy, creative and highly

adaptive as well. Our situations and cultural differences are many and varied...plus we have the need to connect rural issues and folks with urban issues and folks to be the "connected" church and enlarge our experience of the world and of God. Urban ministers need to make those same connections if we are to address the issues related to feeding folks and caring for creation and healing folks.

I know this was not an intentional slight to those who serve rural congregations - but it might seem like that to those of us who work just as laboriously as the urban ministers do.

Just my thoughts - and I really do appreciate the work you have done for this.

Thank you!

Linda Martin