

## **Rationale for an Administrative Commission for Waterford**

The members of the Committee on Ministers and Congregations (COMAC), at its regularly stated meeting on February 13, 2020, voted to recommend an Administrative Commission be formed by Albany Presbytery to serve alongside the current Session of the Waterford Presbyterian Church. In a conversation held on February 2, 2020, with the Rev. Bill Schram (COMAC member), church members welcomed presbytery's assistance in addressing the future of the congregation. Therefore, COMAC sees this action not as punitive, but as a constructive step in assisting the congregation on its journey.

As the church faces declining membership and limited finances, COMAC recommends that the AC assume original jurisdiction, but also that it should serve alongside the three current Session members, rather than replacing them, for the following purposes:

1. To discern a path forward for the congregation.
2. To explore the possibilities of merger with neighboring congregations.
3. To explore becoming a fellowship within the presbytery.
4. To address the fiscal concerns and liabilities before the church.
5. If need be, to determine a path toward closure of the congregation and dispensation of its property and assets.

COMAC recommends the following presbyters be appointed by the moderator to the Administrative Commission: The Rev. David Moore (Rensselaer), Elder Sue Laz (Third Troy), the Rev. Kathi Jones (Valatie), and the Rev. Amanda Wagner (First United, Troy). In addition, the American Baptist Conference will provide two members (as it is a union congregation) as participants to the process.

It is further moved that the AC report on its progress by the September 2020 stated meeting of the Presbytery of Albany.