

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT - Albany Presbytery meeting of June 1, 2019

For information:

Today's offering during worship has been designated for the **PCUSA Pentecost Offering**. The **40%** portion to be retained for local use will go toward **Vacation Bible School programs in Albany Presbytery**. Any church whose VBS aims at engagement with the wider community can so notify Ted Wright (wrightsafrica@gmail.com) during the month of June. The offering will then be divided on July 1 equally among all qualifying programs.

We thank **Rev. Nadeem Sadiq** for his Open Space presentation about Christians in Pakistan, and about the need for interfaith understanding here in the USA. Mission Committee has joined with COMAC in supporting Rev. Sadiq's participation in a forthcoming G.A.-level conference on financial sustainability for New Worshiping Communities and for immigrant fellowships in particular.

Ruling Elder **Ruth Pierpont** (Cornerstone Community Church) has agreed to serve as Presbytery's official liaison member on the board of Oakwood Community Center (Troy). Thanks to Rev. Alexandra Lusak for her term of service in this role.

The total collected for **Second-Chance Camperships** came to \$1050. To date, there have been 5 applications for grants (\$150 each), so all 5 have been awarded, and we remain with \$300 in that fund pending further applications and/or emergencies. Any balance can carry over into next year.

Mission Committee members are always willing to **visit with local-church** Sessions or congregations in order to interpret mission (presbytery/synod/G.A.), discuss networks and resources, share best practices, or simply to consult in whatever manner is desired. For a complete list of potential services, see our brochure: "**What Do You Seek?**"

For action: 8 recommendations with regard to Mission Partners
(Entities not controlled by Albany Presbytery who receive partial funding
from the presbytery on the basis of shared purpose, goals, and values)

Based on conversations from the March 26 meeting of presbytery, we propose:

1. For 2020, retain the same six Mission Partners as at present.
2. Starting in 2020 (for 2021), require annual applications for Mission Partner status – eligible without limit for renewal. (Sessions/congregations can nominate; the entity itself must apply.)
3. In 2019, develop tools and protocols to evaluate annually each Mission Partner's effectiveness.
4. Help Mission Partners tell their stories more effectively to Presbytery and its constituents.
5. Visit Sessions and congregations. Help them identify passions, develop mission engagements, access networks and resources, and learn best practices. (All visits would be by invitation.)
6. During local visits, interpret to churches what happens with the dollars they send to Presbytery.
7. Issue personal letters of thanks to all Sessions/congregations who support Presbytery through Shared Witness (non-assessed) giving.
8. During Presbytery meetings, acknowledge and celebrate the generosity of churches with regard to various missions.