

MISSION COMMITTEE REPORT to ALBANY PRESBYTERY

January 25, 2020

Today's worship offering will benefit the **Good Neighbors network** in Cambridge, Washington County: welcoming and supporting local farm workers through transportation, translation, and tutoring.

2020 SUMMER CAMBERSHIPS

Once again, Albany Presbytery will offer financial support to young people who are connected with our churches and who plan to attend Christian summer camps. Key elements of the program:

- Applications will be accepted online from Feb. 1 thru March 1, inclusive.
- Order of online filing establishes the order of priority among complete applications.
- To be complete, an application must also include a paper co-signed by a parent/guardian and a pastor, moderator or Session clerk. Download the paper online (www.albanypresbytery.org) and send it to Presbytery's mailing address – PO Box 83, Watervliet NY 12189 – attn: Camperships.
- Parent/guardian must attest to the level of financial need: Would the child not be able to attend Christian camp without a \$250 grant from Albany Presbytery sent directly to the camp in the child's name?
- Absent this attestation, the child can still qualify for a \$100 campership, also sent directly to the camp.
- Pastor, Moderator, or Session Clerk must attest that the child belongs to the "extended family" of the local congregation.
- This year, we will no longer observe any distinction between camps owned by organizations "in correspondence" with PCUSA and those owned by other Christian ministries.

We are budgeting \$3,500 for 14 high-need camperships, and \$1,500 for 15 low-need camperships. After March 1 we may reassess that budget, depending on experience.

Please note that this program draws upon proceeds realized from the sale of Camp Hebron. The draw is on principal, not just interest. At Presbytery's current rate (\$5,000/year), we estimate about 5 years of camperships remaining after this.

MISSION PARTNERS: WHO ARE THEY? HOW ARE ALL of us INVOLVED?

Mission Partners are regional ministries whose goals and values align Presbytery's. Albany Presbytery does not control them, but we do support them through both per-capita and Shared Witness giving. All congregations therefore have at least a passive stake in the Partners' work. This year, our Presbytery budget allocates collectively – \$37,200 (10.5%) – to the 6 current Mission Partners, though not in equal shares:

Cornerstone Campus Ministry at UAlbany
Rural & Migrant Ministry
Russell Sage Protestant Chaplaincy

Schenectady Inner City Ministry
Troy Area United Ministries
Union College Protestant Chaplaincy

If you want help getting to know these 6 Mission Partners, feel free to contact our Committee. We can offer Sunday presentations, workshops, Q&A, consultations, or online conversation. Please email our chair, Rev. Ted Wright: wrightsafrica@gmail.com

Of course, you can also contact any Mission Partner directly!

WHO WILL BE NEXT YEAR'S MISSION PARTNERS?

That depends on who applies for funding and recognition.

We now require annual updates. All entities seeking Mission Partner status – whether or not we currently fund them – must submit an application available from Presbytery's website: due March 31 from current Partners and April 30 from prospective new ones. Our Committee will announce selections by early fall, followed by the size of each grant.

Can any Session nominate a prospective Mission Partner? Yes. But that entity, not the Session, must produce the application. *Can a Session nominate a program of its own church?* Yes, if that program is not totally Session-controlled. Also bear in mind that our Committee will look favorably on applicants whose reach embraces most or all of our Presbytery's geography.

MISSION "TOOLKIT" AVAILABLE to LOCAL CHURCHES

www.presbyterianmission.org/mission-toolkits/mission-committee-toolkit This "kit" (actually, a set of related postings) is meant for local church members who might be interested in learning more about God's mission, or evaluating their congregation's involvement, or possibly discerning a new mission focus.

MISSION EVALUATION FORM AVAILABLE to LOCAL CHURCHES

Our Committee will be happy to share the template we use in assessing Mission Partners. Would this be helpful, as you seek rationale for your mission budget or program? Contact our chairperson: wrightsafrica@gmail.com.

PEACEMAKING TASK FORCE: 2 OVERTURES to GENERAL ASSEMBLY

At today's Presbytery meeting you can learn about a proposal to divest the PCUSA from fossil fuel companies, and also an endorsement for a Korean Peace Treaty. Both are for discussion. Neither will receive final action until March 17 at the Mayfield church.

GUATEMALA PARTNERSHIP with MAM PRESBYTERY

Spaces are open and scholarships available for forthcoming February trips. To learn more, contact Rev. Kathy Gorman-Coombs: revkqc@gmail.com or the Rev. Bonnie Orth.

CONGRATULATIONS for your GENEROSITY!

12 congregations went "4 for 4" in 2018: supporting all 4 special offerings of the PCUSA. Albany First, Broadalbin, Hamilton Union, Hudson Falls, Putnam Station, Roessleville, Salem, Tribes Hill, Troy First United, Valatie, West Charlton, Westminster