

MISSION COMMITTEE report to ALBANY PRESBYTERY

January 12, 2021

*We recommend that **offerings** given in connection with the January 23 online meeting of presbytery should go to **Soul Fire Farm** in Grafton (Rensselaer Co.) You can visit their website: www.soulfirefarm.org. As an "Afro-Indigenous centered community farm committed to uprooting racism and seeding sovereignty in the food system", Soul Fire has received several large grants from the Presbyterian Hunger Program. This will be Albany Presbytery's first grant.*

2021 SUMMER CAMPERSHIPS

Hoping that Christian camps might be able to resume this year, we offer financial support to encourage participation by young people connected with our churches. Key elements of the program:

- Applications will be accepted online from Feb. 1 thru March 1, inclusive.
- The order of filing online establishes the order of priority among completed 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 this paper online (www.albanypresbytery.org) and send it, co-signed, to the **Rev. Karen Pollan, campership registrar**, at Delmar Presbyterian Church, 585 Delaware Ave., Delmar NY 12054.
- Parent/guardian must attest to the realistic level of financial need. Basic grants will be \$100, paid directly to the camp in the young person's name. But if a parent/guardian certifies need for a \$250 grant, without which the child could not attend at all, we can approve the higher amount.
- Either way, the Pastor, Moderator, or Session Clerk must attest that the child belongs to the "extended family" of the relevant congregation.
- We make no distinction between camps run by organizations which are in correspondence with the PCUSA and those owned by other Christian ministries.

We budget for 14 high-need camperships and 15 basic camperships. After Mar. 1 we may reassess those allocations, depending on experience.

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

Peacemaking Task Force – Goals for 2021

1. Select a book for presbytery to read and discuss, on climate change and racism.
2. Obtain commitment from all of presbytery's churches to obtain their energy from renewable sources. (Will show a video at the March meeting.)

Who are presbytery's official Mission Partners for 2021?

Campus Ministry at Russell Sage Schenectady Inner City Ministry
Cornerstone Campus Ministry, UAlbany Troy Area United Ministries
Rural & Migrant Ministry Union College Protestant Chaplaincy

Each of these has a Mission Resource video archived on the presbytery website.

Who will be Mission Partners in 2022?

First, it depends on who applies. Existing Mission Partners (see above) have until March 31 to submit online-fillable renewal applications. Potential NEW Mission Partners have until April 30. Over the summer, your Mission Committee will decide which ministries and funding levels to recommend. A final decision will come Nov. 16 on the floor of presbytery, in connection with next year's budget.

Questions? Email our chairperson, Rev. Ted Wright: wrightsafrica@gmail.com

Access to other Grant Programs

The Mission Committee now administers **Rural Initiative** and **New Initiative** grants. Both of these are presbytery-level incentives to upgrade congregational outreach.

Mission Committee can also serve as your liaison to Self-Development of People, Hunger Program grants, and to various Mission Program grants administered by PCUSA (Louisville.)

REGARDING NEW WORSHIPING COMMUNITIES

As this year unfolds, the Mission Committee anticipates taking responsibility for all matters connected with funding, encouragement, endorsement, and evaluation of New Worshiping Communities within Albany Presbytery. But we will not be responsible for their leaders' accountability to Presbytery; this belongs to COMAC.

Nominations for Sam & Helen R Walton Award grants are due Jan. 31 in the Office of Mission Program Grants, PCUSA.

If your congregation might appreciate any of the following, contact us any time through our chairperson, the Rev. Ted Wright: wrightsafrica@gmail.com

Mission sermons
Presentations
Workshops

Consultations
Budget interpretation
Info re presbytery's Mission Partners.