

Temporary Presbyter's Report – January 2020

As we ended 2020 and began 2021, it was a season of expectant worship at Christmas and the celebration of the light of Christ at Epiphany. With an available vaccine for Covid now a reality, people are hopeful for a return to seeing family, friends and worshipping together weekly in church later this year.

Ministers Zoom Calls

Our serving ministers continue to meet weekly via Zoom for discussion and mutual support. It has been a good way for ministers to get to know each other better.

Support of Ministers and Congregations

As of December 31, the Trustees had given out \$74,000 in grants to 21 of our churches to help support technological upgrades. This will enable them to reach out to their members and their community through their on-line worship services. The grant program ended on December 31st.

Presbytery Property Matters

In case you haven't read the minutes of our recent presbytery meetings, here is a brief update on church properties under the oversight of the trustees:

- The Carlisle Church property was sold on 10/31/20. The presbytery is holding the mortgage for the purchasers.
- The pandemic has slowed down the process of transferring the former Oakwood Presbyterian Church property to the Oakwood Community Center. It is hoped that this transfer will occur in the first quarter of 2021.
- The Waterford Church building and manse are both under contract to be sold. These properties are jointly owned by our presbytery and the American Baptist Church, as the congregation was federated. It is possible the sales will be completed in the first quarter of 2021.

Honorably Retired Ministers

Our chaplain Rev. Beth Illingworth has been actively ministering to our retired minister members even during the pandemic. There has been interest expressed in a discussion group for those honorably retired. The first meeting, by Zoom, will occur on January 27th. More information will follow

Special Offerings for 2020

Just a reminder that it is important, if you want to receive recognition from our mission agency, that all special offerings for the year be received by the presbytery not later than January 10th.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Bill Henderson
Temporary Presbyter
Albany Presbytery