

## **Temporary Presbyter's Report – March 2021**

As we have entered the somber season of Lent, we have also begun year two of the COVID pandemic. But thanks be to God that vaccines have become available to protect and save the lives of people around the world! And with increasing numbers of people being vaccinated, the sessions of churches that are not yet open for in-person worship are discussing when to begin them.

### **Sexual Harassment Prevention Training**

As most active ministers know, the annual training requirement required by New York has begun. All ministers serving in churches, all commissioned ruling elders, all ministers in a validated ministry and all individuals on the approved preaching list (or who otherwise preach in our churches during the year) are required to take this training. Honorably retired ministers who no longer preach are exempt from this training. This year the training uses the Zywave training platform. This annual training is not to be confused with the required Boundary Awareness Training which each minister must do once every five years. Both of these programs are overseen by COMAC.

### **Ministers Zoom Calls**

The ministers continue to meet weekly by Zoom for mutual support and encouragement. One of the wonderful things that recently occurred was a presbytery wide Ash Wednesday service, completely planned and carried out by the ministers in our presbytery. The service was truly a blessing; and they are planning a similar shared service for Maundy Thursday. Some ministers have announced their retirement: Michael Burkley will be retiring from Rockwell Falls in April 2021 and Linda Martin from Broadalbin in January 2022.

### **Presbytery Property Matters**

Both the former Waterford Church and Waterford manse are scheduled to have closings the week of March 7<sup>th</sup>. The proceeds of those sales will be evenly divided between Albany Presbytery and the American Baptist Church since the congregation was a federated church.

### **Update on Staffing**

While there will be reports in the presbytery meeting packet, just be aware that the Personnel Committee, along with the help of additional willing volunteers, has been interviewing for the stated clerk position. Work is also being done, with additional volunteers, on drafting a preliminary job description for the administrator position. More information will be forthcoming.

### **Presbytery Post**

You have seen the work our communications manager, Katie Gorsky, has done in providing us with a twice a month newsletter highlighting important things happening in the wider church. If you don't get our e-news communication, be sure to sign up on the presbytery website. It is a great resource for session members and deacons, as well as ministers.

**Memo**

I send a letter to COMAC and the Board of Trustees sharing some information about church property that I have learned from recent denominational presentations. The memo will be posted to the website for your information.

Respectfully submitted,

RE Bill Henderson  
Temporary Presbyter  
Albany Presbytery