



85 Chestnut Street  
Albany, NY 12210  
T 518.273.4991  
info@albanypresbytery.org  
http://albanypresbytery.org

June 16, 2026

Dear Congregations and Members of Albany Presbytery,

In June 2025, the professional investigation firm Vestry Laight was engaged to audit and review Albany Presbytery's response process, with the objective of improving Albany Presbytery's capacity to respond and to offer guidance to affect future changes to our policies and procedures as well as the Rules of Church Discipline in the Book of Order.

Elder Mary Anne Davis  
**Moderator**

Rev. Dr. Timothy Coombs  
**Vice-Moderator**

Dr. Robert Trawick  
**General Presbyter**

Rev. David Bennett  
**Stated Clerk**

Rev. Laura Mitchell  
**Chaplain**

At the September 13, 2025, meeting, Albany Presbytery approved the formation of an Administrative Commission (AC): *to support the ongoing investigation by Vestry Laight, host a "town hall" meeting if necessary for any who would like to meet the principal investigators and/or inquire about their work, and to bring Vestry Laight's final report back to the presbytery upon completion.*

The moderator initially appointed three members to the AC: Rev. Dr. Bill Crawford, Rev. Kathy Gorman-Coombs, and Elder Meg Knight. Elder Meg Knight resigned early on due to other life responsibilities.

The AC met monthly with Vestry Laight staff to hear updates on progress, answer questions, and provide information when requested. The AC also provided connections to various individuals, groups and committees involved in this and other ecclesiastical disciplinary investigation processes in the PCUSA.

As the AC, we have now received this report, and share it with the Presbytery, and invite all members of the presbytery to attend a town hall meeting for the purpose of meeting the investigators and asking questions. The date is still to be determined but one possibility is to include it as part of the September Presbytery meeting [9/19/26 in Lake George at the Caldwell PC].

Attached please find the report as well as some accompanying papers written by Rev. Jim Evinger, a member of the Genesee Valley with significant experience in working with investigations of abuse within the PCUSA.

Faithfully yours,

*Rev. Dr. William P. Crawford and  
Rev. Kathleen P. Gorman-Coombs*