

OPPORTUNITIES FOR SERVICE IN PRESBYTERY OF SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY

In order better to match people's gifts with the opportunities for service at the presbytery level, you find here basic descriptions of Presbytery groups, both those whose members are elected by the Presbytery, and those whose members are self-selected, as in the Teams.

For detailed information about the work of the committees, please contact the chair of each group.

To discuss the process of volunteering and being nominated, please contact the Presbytery Nominating Committee chair.

PERMANENT UNITS AUTHORIZED BY THE PRESBYTERY BY-LAWS OR THE DENOMINATIONAL BOOK OF ORDER

Presbytery Cabinet

The Cabinet takes an overall view of and responsibility for Presbytery mission and guidance. Its members are Ruling and Teaching Elders, including the Moderator, Vice Moderator, Cabinet Moderator, Moderator of Presbyterian Women, and nine at-large members, nominated by the Presbytery Nominating Committee. These at-large members have special responsibilities on the Cabinet's committees dealing with Personnel, Worship/Workshops, Finance, Church Development/Grant Funding Review, and an Executive Team made up the Stated Clerk, the Moderator, the Vice Moderator, and the Moderator of Cabinet. The Stated Clerk and Stated Clerk are both ex-officio members of the Cabinet. The Executive Team meets at stated times to prepare for the Cabinet Meetings, prepare the Presbytery Assemblies agenda, and to conduct related business and the Cabinet meets at stated times to engage in visioning and provide overall leadership for the Presbytery.

Committee on Lay Preaching

This committee maintains the Lay Preaching Program for the Presbytery by:

- setting up Continuing Education Training
- interviewing those who have completed the necessary training program and wish to become commissioned lay preachers, and deciding on those who are qualified to become Commissioned Lay Preachers for a three year period.
- maintaining records of the classes Commissioned Lay Preachers have attended in order to be eligible to be re-commissioned for a three year period.
- keeping the records of the number of times Lay Preachers lead worship in the various churches
- providing training for those persons who are called to be Commissioned Lay Pastors

Members may be laity and clergy.

Committee on Ministry

The goal is to serve both congregations and pastors in the presbytery, providing support and maintaining confidentiality in sensitive situations, and being agents of health and healing. To do that each member is assigned as a liaison to 3 to 4 churches, with new members assigned to churches that are going smoothly, at least at the time. Liaisons check in and meet personally with the pastors and Sessions of 'their' churches and report at the monthly meetings. Many issues are discussed with the committee as a whole to share ideas and keep all informed, being attentive to confidentiality. Liaison Reports with fairly standard information, such as renewing pastors' terms of call, are shared by email ahead of each meeting. More complicated issues are discussed by the committee. **COM meets the first Tuesday of each month from 4 pm to 8 pm at the Presbytery Mission Support Center in Bainbridge, dinner provided (donations accepted).**

Members must be Ruling and Teaching Elders.

Committee on Nominations, Bills and Overtures

This committee is responsible to present to the Presbytery nominees to serve as Presbytery Moderator, Presbytery Vice-Moderator, Cabinet Members-At-Large, Commissioners to the General Assembly and Synod, and members of the following committees: Lay Preaching, Ministry, Permanent Judicial Commission, Preparation for Ministry, and Representation. It also considers what committees should make recommendations to the Presbytery in re: actions that come from the General Assembly. The CNBO meets as necessary, usually no more than five times a year, with much of the recruiting accomplished by phone and email. Members may be Laity and Teaching Elders.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

This committee is charged with the care and supervision of persons who may discern a call to Ministry of Word and Sacrament. The main task is to assist these persons in their ongoing discernment process and in their completion of theological education and other requirements stipulated by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and the Presbytery. CPM works with individuals, sessions, other presbytery entities, and the Office of the General Assembly, being careful always to preserve confidentiality throughout the whole life-transforming process. Members must be Ruling and Teaching Elders.

Committee on Representation

This committee is required by the Book of Order and is to review the representation of persons serving in the Presbytery.

Permanent Judicial Commission

This special body acts in the place of Presbytery in Ecclesiastical Judicial matters under the "Rules of Discipline" found in the last part of the Book of Order. Since it is a commission rather than a committee, it acts with the full authority of the Presbytery. It does not conduct investigations, but does receive reports of investigations and conducts hearings and trials if allegations become charges after an investigation. The work is confidential until a decision is made in a case or an appeal which comes to it. The members are Teaching and Ruling Elders in as balanced a number as possible with 7-11 total, with terms of six years.

MINISTRY TEAMS

(These are self-selected; that is, people who share these interests gather together to carry out these ministries; they do not go through the process of nomination by the Presbytery Nominating Committee and approval by the Presbytery.)

Christian Nurture Team

This team nurtures the participation and education of youth in our Presbytery through spiritual formation and social events, connections with our Presbytery and the larger PCUSA. The work areas are: Youth Triennium of the PC(USA), recommend to CNBO, the Youth Advisory Delegates to the Synod and the General Assembly, annual Youth Retreats and quarterly or semi-annual Presbytery Youth Events, camperships for summer opportunities, Campus Ministries, Data Base of youth leaders and contacts in each congregation, support for Adult Education in congregations. Meeting times and locations vary at members' convenience.

Ethiopian Partnership Ministry Team

This team plans and carries out the agreements of the Mission Partnership between Western Wollega Bethel Synod (WWBS) of the Ethiopian Evangelical Church Mekane Yesus (EECMY) and Susquehanna Valley Presbytery. Bi-monthly meetings arrange visits between the partners, facilitate communications between the partners and about the partnership within the presbytery, and strategize on ways to encourage support for special mission projects (such as the Ethiopian Rural Education Project) and on ways of sharing our congregations' ministries and faith journeys with our partners. Members of the Ministry Team have found this connection in mission with brothers and sisters in Ethiopia to be a wonderful source of personal spiritual strength in their walk with the Lord, but also a source of joy and vibrant faith to the congregations with whom they directly share the good news of what God is doing.

Justice in Mission Team

This Team provides education, resources, and advocacy tools to understand the broader systemic implications of ministries of compassion and the call to express God's shalom and justice, locally, regionally, nationally, and globally. It serves as an umbrella organization to support groups organized around particular concerns: e.g., Peacemaking and Eco-Justice; supports and supervises the Presbytery Hunger Action Enabler and the Stewardship of Creation Enabler; has responsibility to be good stewards of the designated Peacemaking and Environmental Justice funds, in consultation with the Presbytery Cabinet; provides needed financial assistance to those who attend Synod and General Assembly resource events, and provides ways for them to share their learnings with congregations.; and coordinates the visits to our Presbytery by International Peacemakers, or International Listening Teams. Meetings are held five times a year at members' convenience.

RESPONSE FORM FOR SERVICE ON A COMMITTEE OR TEAM

I am interested in

_____having more information about the following Presbytery unit (Cabinet, Committee, or Team):

_____serving on the following Presbytery unit (Cabinet, Committee, or Team):

My name:

My gifts and experience for this service:

My contact information (email, phone, and address):

Email:

Phone:

Address:

My church affiliation or Presbytery membership category:

Please e-mail to the Nominating Committee chair (Garrett Schindler) at or mail in care of:

garrettschindler@gmail.com

Presbytery Mission Support Center, PO Box 87, Nineveh, NY 13813

For teams, contact the chair of the team in which you are interested.