

Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley
Report of Stated Clerk to Presbytery September 16, 2017

For Action: 2018 Presbytery Assembly Dates

These have been reviewed by Cabinet

all are Saturdays

February 24

May 19 - (?Waverly/Valley - joint with Lackawanna?)

September 29

November 17

For Information:**Session Record Reviews**

Reviews of Session Records (both Session Minutes and Membership Roll books)

Clerks are asked to use the attached checklist [#9A] and fill it out in advance.

The clerk is encouraged to participate or to send a designated person in their place

Not all locations are finalized - if willing to host a reading session you may contact the Stated Clerk at 607-323-4426 or statedclerk@susvalpresby.org

Review Gatherings are being scheduled for the following dates:

Saturday Morning Sessions: 9am-11am

September 30 - TBA

October 7 - Walton United Presbyterian Church, East Street, Walton NY

October 21 TBA

November 4 TBA

November 11, Northminster, Endwell 711 Farm-to-Market Rd at Hooper Road

If you cannot make any of the Sessions - contact the Stated Clerk to make arrangements for your records to be reviewed.

Session Annual Statistical Reports

The online system is a link on the page at oga.pcusa.org/stats and will open in early December with a deadline for entry in February 2017.

An instruction/workbook [#9B] is also found at

www.pcusa.org/resource/2017-english-session-annual-statistical-report-ins/

or contact the Stated Clerk or Christine at the Presbytery if you need one printed out.

We will accept a hardcopy report using the workbook if you fill it out and mail it in. (or if you fax or e-mail it.)

The User Name is a Number - the 5-digit GA church PIN which has been around for generations. Some will need to add a leading Zero to make 5 digits The **Password** for your church is the same one that was issued years ago and is unfortunate CAPITAL letters and numbers, with an exclamation point ! on the end. But if you can't find it, contact the Stated Clerk at the contact above or Christine at the Presbytery Office phone.

General Assembly Task Force For Safe and Sacred Space regarding an Open Forum on Protection Policies and Procedures for your Congregation to fulfill G-3.0106

The Stated Clerk received a communication from Jim Evinger, a minister in Upstate New York who is serving on this Task force. Your Stated Clerk would like to hear responses if you have interest in his proposal to provide this Open Forum through our Presbytery:

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ,

I'm starting with Susquehanna Valley and Geneva first for two reasons. First, I want to honor Susquehanna Valley's submission of an overture to the 2016 General Assembly (Item 05-06) which sought a national model policy and resources from the national Church. You obviously care about the topic.

I'm looking for:

A 90-minute slot in September or October which encourages the participation of a broad base of your congregations. [Morning, afternoon, evening are all fine: I live in Rochester; I simply need some travel time.]

Your congregation is invited to an Open Forum

This open format invites you to share your perspective on protection policies and procedures. The Forum is facilitated by G.A. Task Force member, James S. Evinger, Synod of the Northeast. Responses are sought to 5 questions:

1. What are the issues, topics, questions, or barriers with which your congregation has struggled as it attempted to develop, did develop, or implemented your policy and procedures to protect children, youth, and vulnerable adults (e.g., persons with a cognitive impairment)?
2. What has worked well for you? What resources, best practices, sources, processes, or models have been effective for your congregation? How has your congregation benefitted?
3. Is your congregation aware of the resources through Insurance Board?
<https://www.insuranceboard.org/safety-resources/>
[Insurance Board is a nonprofit corporation which administers a property and liability insurance program serving 4 denominations, including the Presbyterian Church. It offers numerous services, including online resources and training free for Presbyterians, and background checks discounted for Presbyterians.] Have you utilized Insurance Board resources to develop a protection policy or adopt certain procedures? If so, what have been your results?
Are you aware of other resources from the national Church?
4. If the national Church compiled a list of resources for congregational protection policies and procedures, what would you recommend be included in the set? What would be the most effective way to make these resources available for congregations?
5. Comments – hopes – recommendations – questions?
We are particularly interested in the perspective of people who are directly involved in programs and activities for children, youth, or vulnerable adults, e.g., Sunday School, Vacation Bible School, youth group, mission trip, retreat. Responses will be compiled and reported to the G.A. Task Force.

Iron sharpens iron, and one person sharpens another. Proverbs 27:17