

**Synod Commission Report to Hudson River Presbytery
Synod of the North East Mission and Ministry Commission meeting
Oct. 6-7 at The Desmond Hotel, Albany**

Synod Leader Report:

Note Administrative work taking place in a number of presbyteries. But beyond the SARCs, the Synod is also aiding/facilitating partnerships among presbyteries to ensure better work

Note Lori Hylton and Margaret Mitsuyasu added to Synod staff

Facebook Live with the Rev. Edwin Gonzalez-Castillo re Puerto Rico and Synod Response

Report leading to funding/aid

PDA has granted \$25,000 for church building fixes

In terms of what the Synod of the NE could do right now: water, food, and tarps

Plan to create a synod response and to invite presbyteries into the response

Stated Clerk Report:

Newark AC (convened August 2015) is concluding its work. Final report in February

Albany SARC report submitted

Personnel Policies for the Synod Manual of Operations are before us and commissioners need to review and submit proposed changes by Dec. 31. Personnel Policies to be voted upon and adopted in February

Preparing to make an overture again to GA concerning representation

The Working Group on Race has requested status as a working group of the Mission and Ministry Commission and a budget line so that resources can be shared

Synod Networker Report:

Make sure we remind our presbyteries that Emerging Leaders are invited to gather in November at the cost of only \$100 (Age 25-40)

Mission Coordinator Report:

Plan for work: create mission teams among presbyteries, support the Mission Working Group of MMC, follow up with innovation grant recipients, and develop the communication strategy of the Synod

Mission Operating Group Report: (Stephen Fearing)

Motion: Award Innovation Grant to Spirit Talk in Hudson River Presbytery, \$15,000 in 2017 and \$15,000 in 2018. **Motion Approved.**

Motion: Distribute \$118,500 in Campus Ministry Funding in 2018. **Motion Approved.**

Motion: Reallocate Innovation Funds, \$65,300, to aid Puerto Rico in disaster relief. Set oversight taskforce: Margaret Mitsuyasu, Amaury Tanon-Santos, Stephen Fearing, Crystal Garcia, and Leslie Latham. **Motion Approved.**

Motion: Reallocate Innovation Funds, \$20,000, to Immigration Advocacy Fund for use by Network, specific use: Legal Defense fund for Presbyterians. **Motion Approved.**

Networks Working Group Report: (Charlie Smith)

Motion: Designate \$20,000 for Immigration Advocacy Fund, set oversight taskforce: Amaury Tanon-Santos, Charlie Smith, Jeniffer Rodriguez, and Crystal Garcia. **Motion Approved.**

Motion: Remove Gun Violence and Prevention Network from Networks. **Motion Approved.**

Motion: Removed Network on Prison Ministry. **Motion Approved.**

Administrative Working Group Report: (Jacinth Hanson)

Treasurer's Report, we draw down our investments by about \$1 million a year. Strategy discussion in February meeting.

Palisades Presbytery Update: still transitioning to a sustainable future. AWG directed the presbytery to again make a written report in February.

Albany SARC Motion: Endorse the report and dismiss the Committee after it makes its report to the Albany Presbytery on Nov. 15, 2017. Synod Stated Clerk will send a letter to Albany Presbytery with this information. Reserve the right to reconvene Committee members to check in with Albany Presbytery in a year's time. **Motion Approved.** Note: The Albany SARC Report is to be held as confidential by the MMC members who have seen it until it is presented to the Albany Presbytery on Nov. 15.

Personnel update, now handled by the AWG with an advisory group of 3

Faithfully submitted,
Kathryn Rivera Torea
Minister of Word and Sacrament