**Synod Commission**

**April 26-27, 2024**

Commissioners for the Synod of the Northeast gathered in Dewitt, New York last month to conduct our regular business.

We received the final report and voted in favor of dissolving the Susquehanna Valley Presbytery Administrative Commission (AC). Over the course of the last four years an AC representing the Synod has worked with leaders in Susquehanna Valley to resolve differences and chart a new course for the presbytery.

We received the Transitional Leader’s report on the state of the Synod, including the development of a roadmap for the Synod’s future, a strategic partnership with Columbia Theological Seminary to bring interns to our region, similar ongoing dialogue with Union Theological Seminary and Princeton Theological Seminary, the Discernment Team’s ongoing work, and initial efforts in evaluating candidates for the small church residency program. It was also announced that Presbytery of the Coastlands (NJ) made a $20,000 donation the Synod’s Native American Mission Initiative.

We heard a summary of the outcomes from the Synod’s first in-person Permanent Judicial Commission trial since before the COVID pandemic.

We were reminded by the Stated Clerk that our presbyteries need to elect commissioners for the Synod Assembly taking place on October 25 & 26 in Albany, NY.

The Mission Working Group (MWG) reviewed 23 Innovation grant applications totaling nearly $400,000 in requested funds. This round the MWG had $95,000 to award. This was the single most competitive application season in recent memory. The MWG also received one application for a Youth Development Grant. Two churches in Geneva Presbytery received grants: Christ the King Fellowship and FPC-Seneca Falls.

The Connectional Ministries Working Group is planning two events for the fall with Native American led Presbyterian churches within the Synod, details to follow.

Grants are awarded throughout the year for a variety of ministries. Information and applications can be found on the Synod website: [www.synodne.org](http://www.synodne.org).

Upcoming grant application deadlines:

Emerging Gospel Communities: August 20, 2024

Campus Ministry: November 15, 2024 (for 2025 funding)

Youth Leadership: November 15, 2024 (for 2025 funding)

Presbytery Support: July 31, 2024

Emergency Migrant Ministry: ongoing and rolling basis

Respectfully submitted,

Aaron Frank (TE)

Mission Working Group Commissioner