

ALBANY PRESBYTERY GOALS 2008 – 2012

As the coordinating and visioning body of the Presbytery, the Council will be responsible to ensure that the work of our committees, task forces, boards and staff, as well as the budgets which finance our ministries, will focus on meeting our expressed goals. The Council will regularly report to the Presbytery on new initiatives and strategies being developed and their effectiveness in reaching these goals.

GOAL #1 – Developing Vital Congregations

Every committee, task force and board will develop specific strategies for training in various aspects of church ministry and in several locations around the presbytery.

The Committee on Ministry (COM) and Committee on Strategy will develop specific strategies for congregations who want to thrive.

COM will develop specific plans for new church planting in strategic areas in our presbytery.

The Commissioned Lay Pastor Program Task Force (CLP) will prepare candidates for commissioning as lay pastors and develop a variety of educational opportunities for congregations to explore the possibility of calling CLPs.

GOAL #2 – Strengthening Our Relationships

Among Congregations:

COM Strategy will broaden and strengthen mentoring strategies and support greater communication and collegiality between congregations.

COM will work with groups of churches – where practical and welcome – to develop strategies for shared leadership and ministry and will continue to update a *Yearbook of Prayer* for use by ministers and congregations.

Among Minister Members of Presbytery:

COM will develop new pastoral care strategies, including a prayer network, pastoral support groups and triennial visits to those in validated ministries and a retired ministers' network.

COM will develop pilot projects in two congregations for a season of serious Sabbath observation as well as a pastors' retreat for the practice of Sabbath-keeping.

Between Presbytery and Congregations:

COM, through its Triennial Visit Team, will work to improve the connection and mutual understanding between congregations and the presbytery.

The presbytery staff will develop new communication strategies, improve the website, broaden and deepen the content and distribution of the e-news and seek other ways to support, inform and inspire our member congregations.

Among Presbytery, Ecumenical and Interfaith Partners:

The presbytery office and those elected to serve on ecumenical agencies, committees, task forces and boards will develop new communication strategies as we relate to CREO, CRTC, CACC, NYSCC, etc.

The Council and presbytery officers will develop strategies for collaboration on how local judicatories can more effectively support college chaplaincies and other joint ministries.

COM will develop strategies for sharing pastoral leadership with Formula of Agreement denominations.

Our ecumenical officer and others will reach out to other faith communities to foster mutual understanding and respect.

GOAL #3 – Increasing Participation in Mission

The Mission Support Task Force will develop specific strategies for publicizing and supporting individual congregations in their mission outreach and promote joint mission trips among our churches.

The Mission Support Task Force will develop specific strategies for broadening and strengthening the Guatemala partnership.

The Mission Support Task Force will develop specific strategies for interpreting and promoting Presbytery, Synod and GA missions.