

The Presbyteries of Genesee Valley and Geneva Present  
The New all Zoom Format

# CONGREGATIONAL LEARNING DAY

For New and Experienced Church Leaders and Church Members

**Saturday, March 6, 2021**  
**8:30 AM - 11:30 AM**



## **6 Virtual Seminars to choose from**

Worship led by Rev. Dr. Stanley Bhasker from the Bath, N.Y. Presbyterian Church. He is delighted to be a part of the learning day which includes both Geneva and Genesee Valley Presbyteries.

- 8:30 – 9 a.m. Meet & Greet
- 9 - 9:30 a.m. Introductions, Worship & Instructions
- 9:30 – 11:30 a.m. Seminars (offered simultaneously via separate Zoom rooms)

As this year we are all virtual, there will be no fee charged.

Register online using the following link

[Congregational Learning Day - Presbytery of Genesee Valley \(pbygenval.org\)](http://pbygenval.org)

**SEMINARS**— offered simultaneously, choose one

### **Called and Equipped: Training for Elders & Deacons**

*Rev. Laura Fry, Pastor, Perinton Presbyterian Church and Rev. Mike Fry, ICF Trained Leadership Coach*

Join us in this interactive seminar to gain practical leadership tools, hone your skills for ministry, and discover how discernment lies at the heart of Presbyterian leadership. We hope new and returning elders and deacons will leave feeling equipped and inspired. Join us!

### **Finance Forum (formerly Church Treasurer Forum)**

*Cheryl Battaglia, Presbytery Financial Administrator and Peter Judd, Presbytery Treasurer*

Calling all church treasurers, bookkeepers, financial secretaries. Bring your experiences for sharing in a round table discussion. Some of the topics include:

- Driving contributions in the right direction— what worked, what didn't in 2020
- Qualified Charitable Deduction vs. RMD
- In house vs. payroll processor—who's the best?
- When is rent taxable?
- NYS paid sick leave 2021
- Trends in Church Management Software—online giving
- Review of Presbytery's "Guide for Church Treasurers"

### **Essentials for Trustees, Finance and Property Elders**

*Elder Barbara James, Summerville, Chair, Presbytery board of Trustees*

Fulfilling your property and financial responsibilities in the Body of Christ is a vital ministry in your church! Come and get the answers to everything you want and need to know to be an effective servant of the Lord and your church family. This user-friendly seminar will discuss building, finance, legal and insurance issues. It will be useful for first-time trustees as well as those with experience. We also would like to hear about your top choices of contractors that you have successfully worked with for your building's needs, e.g. roofing, plumbing, etc. This seminar will also introduce you to the wealth of information available on the Presbytery Trustee's page of the Presbytery website, so you will have access to forms and information you need to help you serve the congregation.

### **Rethinking Stewardship – New Strategies for Changing Times**

*Rev. Dr. Roula Alkhouri, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Batavia and Rachel Norton, Director of Stewardship, Development, and Communications at Third Presbyterian Church with experience as a professional fundraiser for nonprofit organizations. Both attended the 2019 Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference*

How do we instill and grow a strong spirit of giving in our hearts and in our congregations? These are challenging times for church stewardship programs. Unfortunately, even in the face of declining memberships, many churches continue to have a, "we're worthy, give us money" mentality with the predictable result that they struggle to fund their missions. This seminar will offer new strategies to change this dynamic and lay the foundation of successful stewardship campaigns. Among the topics to be covered are: the church's place in American philanthropy, the key reasons why people give, the roles of the pastor and Session, and the care and feeding of donors. We will offer practical tools for cultivating generosity in congregations.

### **The Cross and the Lynching Tree**

*Rev Deborah Grohman, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church of Ontario Center, Vice Moderator of Geneva Presbytery*

The cross and the lynching tree are the two most emotionally charged symbols in the history of the African American community. Join the conversation about race and religion in America based on James H. Cone's book of the same title, c. 2013, Orbis Books. "They put him to death by hanging him on a tree." Acts 10:39

### **Teaching without Preaching**

*Rev. Colin Pritchard, Moderator of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley (until Feb 1<sup>st</sup>), Pastor, The Presbyterian Church in Geneva and a singer/songwriter who supports discipleship exploration and worship expressions through music.*

There are wonderful invitations to experiencing the holy and learning about God that can come from your creative expressions. Telling the story might be more effective than preaching the message. Singing the song might say it better than 1000 words. Silent observation of a beautiful creation might just be prayer in a pure form. Let's talk about the gifts you have and ways you can consider using them to help others attend to the sacred.