



The Presbytery of Susquehanna Valley

PO Box 87, Nineveh, NY 13813 ~ www.susvalpresby.org
Ph: 607-323-4477 ~ Fax: 607-323-4479 ~ pmc@susvalpresby.org



Dear Sisters & Brothers of Susquehanna Valley Presbytery,

I am writing to you all on behalf of the Cabinet. We have heard from many of you who have spoken out about behavior at our meetings and our dealings with one another that is harmful to the Body of Christ. Cabinet has heard your concerns, frustrations, and dismay. We recognize that these issues are getting in the way of the important work the Presbytery is charged with, namely to help resource our churches, elders, and pastors. We have been praying, and we have discussed these concerns at Cabinet meetings and have tried different solutions. We have now recognized that we need help to address this problem. Therefore, just as churches can reach out to the Presbytery to help resolve discord, we as Cabinet have reached out to the Synod of the Northeast to give us guidance.

At our last Cabinet meeting, June 25th, we met with Rev. Dr. Harold Delhagen, Synod of the NE Leader, who shared with us ideas on how we might move forward. Cabinet decided to proceed with a Special Administrative Review Committee (SARC) with a Consultant, Jim Fenimore. A SARC will review the life of the Presbytery, shining a light on us, observing our behavior patterns, our interactions, and provide assistance so that we may move forward in a healthy, positive direction. A SARC is a committee that reports its findings to us and to the Synod leadership but has no authoritative power. A SARC is accountable to the Synod, not the Presbytery, which allows them to do their work independent of us. Once their report is finalized, Harold Delhagen will coach us into that healthier place.

Cabinet became very excited at the opportunity to work with the Special Administrative Review Committee and Consultant Jim Fenimore. Dr. Fenimore has worked with churches in our Presbytery in the past and we are blessed to have him again to work with the whole Presbytery. The work of the SARC will begin later this summer once the Synod has assembled the committee. We will keep you apprised of the process and let you know how to participate when we know more.

We think that this direction we have chosen will produce a new beginning for this Presbytery and will help us to look at the future of ministry with the awe of that first Pentecost. God is doing great work among us, in us, through us and we want to get back to seeing what God is doing. We all enjoyed the “mini workshop” we did as part of our Presbytery meeting and it produced ideas, new relationships, laughter, cooperation. We ended the workshop feeling more hopeful in our churches and our hearts. Those days are returning to us and the SARC is going help us get there sooner.

In Christ's Service,
Robert Peak, Cabinet Chair

Elder Glenna Coutts
Moderator

Rev. Kimberly Chastain
Vice Moderator

Rev. Robert Peak
Cabinet Chair

Rev. Rebecca Kindig
Co-Styled Clerk

Elder Chris Burger
Co-Styled Clerk

Christine Rogalski
Office Administrator