

Members of the Susquehanna Valley SARC

Rev. Lorrie Cooney, SARC Co-Chair, is a minister member of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse. She serves New Hope Presbyterian Church on a part time basis and currently serves as Co-Chair on the Committee on Ministry. She attended General Assembly as the minister member for the presbytery in 2016 which was both a privilege and an honor. Rev. Cooney has served as pulpit supply and as a facilitator for a new worshipping congregation, Isaiah's Table, in downtown Syracuse. Prior to moving to Syracuse 9 years ago, she was in the Carlisle Presbytery in Pennsylvania and worked as a Prison Chaplain at SCI Camp Hill. Rev. Cooney attended seminary after a former career in Human Resources. Prior to attending seminary, she worshipped at a downtown Harrisburg church where she served as a deacon and then elder, chaired the Christian Education Committee and planned numerous women's retreats.

Elder Samuel Dance is a member of the Onondaga Hill Presbyterian Church in Cayuga Syracuse Presbytery. He has served as Senior High Discussion Leader in the Youth Education program and also as a Ruling Elder. Elder Dance is currently serving as Clerk of Session, a position which he has held for the last several years. He has on several occasions written and delivered "The Message" in the Pastor's absence. In 2018 Elder Dance completed a three-year term on the Leadership Team of the Cayuga Syracuse Presbytery, where he served on the Visioning Work Group and the Leadership Development Work Group -- both of which were quite active. Most recently he served on the Search Committee for a new "Resource Presbyter" for the Presbytery. Sam, a retired history teacher, currently volunteers as a docent at the Seward House in Auburn, New York.

Elder John Goehle is a commissioned pastor in the Genesee Valley Presbytery. He serves as a supply pastor preaching about 60% of Sundays for churches largely in small towns with relatively small congregations. He periodically serves churches that are between pastors. In his secular life, Elder Goehle owns a regulatory consulting firm that serves the ambulatory surgery industry. He is well known as a public speaker, author and podcast host in the industry. A substantial part of his practice helps dysfunctional centers return to some semblance of functionality.

Rev. Leah Ntuala, SARC Co-Chair, is Pastor at The First Presbyterian Church and Society of Seneca Falls, Chaplain for Huntington Senior Living Center, and a member of Geneva Presbytery. She has served on the presbytery's Nominating Committee and General Council and is currently a Synod Commissioner and a Board member for Camp Whitman on Seneca Lake. At church she leads Sunday School, Won't You Be My Neighbor, a Book Discussion Group, a Movie Discussion Group and a monthly Game Night. She was Vice Moderator of the Synod Permanent Judicial Commission and has been a Member of the Commission on the Status of Women at the United Nations. Rev. Ntuala participated in the Lombard Mennonite Peace Center's Mediation Skills Training Institute, an Anti-Racism Training, and Strategies on Trauma Awareness and Resilience.

Rev. Steve Plank served as the Stated Clerk/Communicator of the Presbytery of Cayuga-Syracuse for five years before retiring. His pastoral experiences ranged from being an interim pastor, to solo pastor, to head of staff, serving for 14 years at Central Presbyterian Church in Omaha, NE. He has chaired both Committees on Ministry (COM) and Preparation for Ministry (CPM) in presbyteries, served as Moderator of Blackhawk Presbytery, moderated a presbytery Permanent Judicial Commission, and served two other presbyteries as a Stated Clerk. Rev. Plank has been active in synods and served as both a committee parliamentarian and plenary floor parliamentarian at General Assembly(GA) as well as serving as a member of the GA's Advisory Committee on the Constitution. He has extensive experience in Presbyterian polity and Parliamentary Procedure and uses those tools to benefit and empower group decision making.