

# Synod of the Northeast Report to the Churchwide Coordinating Team

Virginia A. Champlin , Representative 2008-2011

September 2010 – February 2011

25 PWP (including 2 Korean and 2 Hispanic)

## Synod – Some Significant Actions and Activities – *Sandy Duncan Grillo, Moderator*

- All PWPs worked on PPG (Presbyterian Partnership Group) PW Regional Gatherings: common theme “Gather at the River” and all held on a shoreline. Two PPG Gatherings in last report and three held during this report.
- July 2011, The Triennial Synod Gathering “Rise and Shine” will be held in Albany including the next class of “Sisters Stand and Walk Together” graduation.
- Stony Point Conference Center offers Retreats: “Loving Hands,” “Cultivating Quiet Retreat,” and “Eating as a Spiritual Practice.”
- Plans are underway for the Annual Retreats: Healing in May, Spiritual in April, and Horizons Bible Study at Stony Point in May. This year, the Healing Retreat will begin to phase out PWSNE financial support with the goal that it become self-supporting.
- *Becky Francisco* has been selected as a Young Adult Volunteer to Daejeon, South Korea. Encouraged that we support her in prayer and perhaps financially. She will share her experiences with us upon her return. *Abbie Slaiman* invited to serve on a Churchwide Task Group for the Communication Committee to develop Social Media Networking Guidelines.
- *Elaine Brown, Charlotte Hasselbarth, Maxine Hunter, Gladys Ortiz* attended the Leadership Training Event in Orlando. They, along with the help from CCT PWNSE members, have begun to share throughout PWNSE.
- *Joanne Burrell*, USAME participant to the Dakotas is sharing her experience and findings throughout PWNSE.
- *Lucy Jarjigian* was selected to represent PWSNE on the Global Exchange to India later this year.
- PWSNE members on the CCT: Secretary *Joanne Schnaudt*, Members at Large *Jenny Lee* and *Nydia Murphy-Leger*, also *Gladys Ortiz* on the Search Team.
- The By-Laws are on the Web Site and are being revisited for any updates and/or changes.
- *Betty Cheyne Jones, Alpha Brown, Lillian Oats, and Judy Wason* attended the UN Status of Women

## Fab Five PPG (Albany, Cayuga-Syracuse, Northern New York, Susquehanna Valley, Utica)

- **Albany** – *Gloria Ghirarduzzi, Moderator*
  - Fall Gathering the Rev. Sandy Damhof gave a history of ecumenical campus ministry and the many mission projects where the students participate
  - Plans underway for Spring Gathering with JoAnn Burrell
- **Cayuga-Syracuse** – *Susan Silliman Smith, Moderator*
- **Northern New York** – *Emily Castine, Moderator*
- **Susquehanna Valley** – *JoAnn Gray, Moderator*
  - Fall Gathering, “Journeys Through Revelation” Rev. Pat Raube incorporates song, story, poetry and conversation based on Revelation 22. Joan Wise-Hostetter led worship
  - Plans underway for Spring Gathering “the End of Poverty” book by Jeffrey Sachs
- **Utica** – *Jan Whiting, Moderator*
  - Fall Gathering, Rev. Brooke Newell talked about human trafficking
  - Winter Gathering, Joanne Strike presented her travels to Nicaragua and Fair Trade issues

## Metro PPG (Hispanic, Hudson River, Long Island, New York City)

- PPG Gathering held October 2<sup>nd</sup> at Camp Holms
  - Rev. Cathy Surgenor and Rev. Nancy Thornton led worship and singing
  - Small group reflections on our lives as streams of living water
- **Hudson River** - *Faye Bishop and Judy Wason, Co-Moderators*
  - Ash Wednesday Retreat @ Stony Point “Fresh Brewed Life” led by Rev. Dorinda Violante
  - Has a very active Prison Ministry - for Christmas furnished prisoners with calendars and cards
- **Long Island** – *Kassie Chamberlain, Temporary Contact person*
- **New York City** – *Alpha Brown, Moderator*
  - Advent Prayer Breakfast “We’ve Come This Far by Faith” led by the Rev. Brown praying for communities, youth, economy, education and for women suffering over the globe.
  - Hosted a global traveler from India, represents the Ecumenical Commission to FPC/Jamaica.

- **Hispanic** – *Paula Damiani, Moderator*
  - Asamblea Annual de MPHL-NYC y LI en El Cristo Vivo in March
  - Plans under way for Retiro Annual de MPHL-NYC y LI in Spring

**New England PPG** (Korean, Northern New England, Southern New England, Boston in Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Vermont)

- PPG Gathering held October 23 at Worcester, Massachusetts
  - Program on The Medical Benevolence Foundation, Mission Trip Reports, Multi-Cultural Music, Fair Trade shopping
- **Boston** – *Elizabeth Denier, Moderator*
  - Fall Gathering was the PPG Gathering, plans are underway for the Spring Gathering
- **Korean** – *Hanna Cho, Moderator*
- **Northern New England** – *Joanna Damon and Beverly Hoover, Co-Moderators*
- **Southern New England** – *Dotsie Shaw, Moderator*
  - Winter Retreat – Journey to Wholeness: a day of reflection based on Psalm 139 and “Praying in Color”

**New Jersey PPG** (Eastern Korean, Elizabeth, Hispanic, Monmouth, New Brunswick, Newark, Newton, Palisades, West Jersey)

- **Eastern Korean** – *Hyung Soon Byun, Moderator*
- **Elizabeth** – *Amy Aaroe, Moderator*
- **Hispanic** – *Eunice Ramierz, Moderator*
- **Monmouth** – *Lori Evans, Moderator*
  - Plans are underway for Spring Gathering – Mark Koenig from the UN and Rev. David Cotton introducing the Horizons Bible Study on the Beatitudes
- **New Brunswick** – *Janice Rockmore, Moderator*
  - Plans underway for Spring Gathering
- **Newton** – *Lisa Gray and Sally Strusz, Co-Moderators*
  - Plans are underway for both Spring Gathering “Discover” and Spiritual Retreat “Approaching Holy Week”
- **Newark** – *Lorraine Cuffe, Moderator*
  - Fall Gathering, JoAnn Burell shared USAME highlights
  - CROP Hunger Walk in the Fall
  - Winter Gathering “Celebrate the Gifts of Women”
- **The Palisades** – *Barbara VanTilburg – Moderator*
  - Plans are underway for Spring Gathering “What Is Our Mission” based on Deuteronomy 15:11
  - Fall Retreat “Presbyterian Women, Self-Identity” led by Rev. Beverly Dempsey.
  - Offering for Center for Food Action
- **West Jersey** – *Virginia Dowd, Moderator*

**Western New York PPG** (Genesee Valley, Geneva, Western New York)

- PPG Gathering was held September 26 at Camp Asbury on Silver Lake, Perry, New York
  - Linda Schneekloth, keynote “Celebrate & Protect Water-Global, Regional, Local”
  - Joann Burrell share USA Mission Experience
- **Genesee Valley** – *Gloria Hall, Moderator*
- **Geneva** – *Virginia Champlin, Contact person*
  - Plans are underway for the Spring Gathering – Presbytery Partnership with Mexico – Leadership component
- **Western New York** - *Marilyn Koszarek, Moderator*
  - Held a Winter Gathering