

Minister Support Groups
Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Minister Support Groups:

Livingston County Pastors Group

Contact: Neighboring Pastor in the area

- Meets most months of the year at a participating pastor's church or home
- Usually gathers mid-morning with the host pastor providing some tasty and healthy food
- Host pastor for the month sends out an email to remind folks of the gathering
- Group discussion generally focuses on ministerial and church joys and concerns and, of course, good fellowship
- Several pastors from southern Monroe County participate

Urban Presbyterians Together Minister's Group

Contact: Tedd Pullano (388-6331)
(newlifepastor@frontiernet.net)

- Meets monthly for lunch and conversation around what is happening with each of our churches and in support of one another

"New Pastors" Group Contact: Martha Langford (319-9989) (mclangford@thirdpresbyterian.org)

- Meets first Thursday of the month at Panera Bread, Henrietta
- For new pastors (meaning new to Presbytery of Genesee Valley), however, pastors who have been in the Presbytery for a time often continue on as participants
- A time to share what's on your mind in a free and open way

Lectionary Group

Contact: Jim Renfrew (813-2934) (jim.renfrew@rochester.rr.com)

- This lectionary group discusses specifically the texts being used 10 days hence, but also converses about what happened the last Sunday and what is planned for the Sunday ahead
- Also, this group discusses ministry in general, how pastors and our congregations are doing
- Anyone who is preaching ... teaching elders, commissioned ruling elders (PCUSA) , (non PCUSA) is welcome to come

Book Club

Contact: Brandi Wooten (490-8807) (revbrandi@gmail.com)

- An open and fluid group, so that if you want to drop in and out for a particular book, you are free to do so
- Locations for our gatherings will change every time so that the burden of driving does not fall on a particular group
- The dates and places for the group to meet and the book to be discussed are announced through a presbytery-wide email

New Retirees Fellowship

Contact: Carolyn Grohman (368-0379) (ccgrohman@gmail.com)

- This group is meant to be a fellowship group for PCUSA clergy (and their spouses/partners) who live within the bounds of Genesee Valley Presbytery and have been retired 5 years or less (more or less--- we don't keep track of how long you have been retired!)
- Group also invites clergy who will be retiring soon – a good way to help prepare to plan for retirement

- Group meets every other month (usually on the fourth Wednesday) for conversation and fellowship – bring brown bag lunch – gathering starts at 12:15 PM in Room 22 of Twelve Corners Church
- Group is sponsored by Presbytery’s Clergy Care and Development Committee

Lectionary Group Contact: Anne Martin (889-5941) (aj27martin@aol.com)

- Group meets every Thursday from 4-6 PM at the home of Anne Martin
- The format for meetings is somewhat informal with a time to share what’s on our hearts and a time to catch up with everyone’s week prior to meeting – then we move into reading and discussing the Lectionary readings and how we can apply them to our lives, etc.
- There is room and would welcome newcomers

Enneagram Study Group Contact: Primary contact person is Elaine Hiscock, the chaplain at Kirkhaven, 461-1991 (ext. 3021); ehiscock@seniorsfirst.com

- The Enneagram Study Group meets once or twice a month on Monday mornings from 10:30--noon in the small chapel on the first floor at Kirkhaven (Alexander Street near Park Avenue). Dates are set by the group. Currently there are six members in the group, plus our paid instructor/facilitator Amy Stratton-Smith. Members of the group pay \$12.50 each time the group meets with Amy, which covers half of Amy's stipend; the remainder is paid by the Clergy Care and Development Committee. (Occasionally the group meets without Amy, and there is no cost for those gatherings.) The purpose of the group is to learn more about the enneagram as it relates to our professional ministry and our personal lives. The group has used two books as resources in the past, but currently Amy is teaching without a set textbook, though *The Wisdom of the Enneagram*, by Riso and Hudson, is the foundational text.

Special Interest Support Groups:

- From time to time special interest support groups form, for example the Long-Term Pastors Group and Creative Connections noted below.
- These groups have a specific interest and build their group membership around that interest. The group once formed usually does not add to its membership. Often these support groups covenant to continue through for specific time period.
- The Clergy Care and Development Committee encourages ministers to form such groups as they seem to be very helpful and professionally productive.

Long-term Pastors Group Contacts: Tom Taylor (226-8741) (cttaylor2@frontiernet.net)
and Neil Frood (243-2673) (nfloodjr@rochester.rr.com)

- Originally started for pastors who had been serving 10 years or more at the same church (now 8 members with many of the group honorably retired)
- Meets every other month at a member’s home and discussion focuses on how each person is doing and general fellowship

Creative Connections (Contact: Brandi Wooten (490-8807) (revbrandi@gmail.com))

- This is a grant-funded collaborative learning experience called S3 Project: Sabbath, Study and Service, through Columbia Seminary and the Lilly Foundation.
- This group met regularly throughout the year of their grant to discuss ways they could apply different creative writing techniques to their sermon writing and preaching styles.
- This group of five participants covenanted to critique and learn from one another.

(To make changes or additions for minister support groups, please contact the chair of the Clergy Care and Development Committee)

(Information updated through the Clergy Care and Development Committee on 4/30/15 based on information received from ministers of Presbytery)