

Presbytery of Genesee Valley

Healthier Congregations Team: Tools & Training Working Group

2018 Scholarships to Individuals/Congs: *excerpts from scholarship applications*

Rebecca D'Angelo-Veitch (Third) Cohort Coaching: Intergenerational Leadership \$500

Over the past year, I have not been able to read an article, attend a conference, read a post in a Christian Education social media group or have a conversation with another educator without the topic of intergenerational ministry coming up. As all of these separate conversations around the role of intergenerational ministry in the mainline church have continued to come to my attention, it felt important to explore this type of ministry, and so I have requested, and been granted, a three month sabbatical with one of its goals being the study of intergenerational ministry. In the process of gathering resources and reading in preparation for my sabbatical, this cohort came to my attention. I appreciate the approach that the coaching will take, with a focus on best practices, trends and context in adopting such a model. I hope that this will prove helpful in my work at Third Church as we consider how our programming might move forward. In particular, I am hoping that being a part of this cohort may help me thoughtfully lead our Wednesday night program ("Qabats") in a new, more intergenerational direction. This change will be important as our numbers are decreasing, and yet, we still believe that there is value in a midweek offering. Thank you for considering my request.

Laurel Nelson (Lagom Landing) Presbyterian Camp & Conference Center Assoc. \$300

The reasons for me attending this conference are as follows:

- 1) This conference will help Lagom Landing in our ministry with young adults, and I hope to network with the great variety of camp ministry leaders who will be there. For several years Lagom Landing has been in conversation with leaders at PCCCA about nurturing connections with young adults who are counselors and might be looking for an alternative or gap year before or during college. We see Lagom Landing as both benefiting from and feeding camp ministry, as we did with Camp Whitman this summer providing two staff members.
- 2) I have volunteered as a chaplain at Camp Whitman for the last four years and greatly enjoy the opportunity to connect with the counselors who work so hard to make camp a powerful experience for campers. I hope to connect with other leaders who are working with this age group and collaborate on ways we can better address the anxiety young adults feel with the tools of Christian faith.
- 3) Other leaders from PGV and Presbytery of Geneva will be going to this event as well, so it's a great opportunity to bring the learning from the conference home to our context, particularly as Camp Whitman seeks to deepen its work with young adults.

Ruth McNamara (Summerville) NEXT Church Community Organizing Cert. \$500

I have been struggling at Summerville to find out what mission God is calling us to. Now with another change in ministers, I feel a lay leader will be important to help us figure out what our church's purpose in our neighborhood is. I think Summerville will only survive if it can find its passion. Being part of Riverside neighbors has helped connect with the larger church, I think taking this course will help me help the church connect to its' neighborhood.

Aaron Neff (Corfu) Certificate in Youth, Theology, and Innovation \$300

I will be completing a certificate program through Princeton Seminary's Institute for Youth Ministry. A significant part of my focus as pastor in Corfu has been on launching and maintaining an active youth ministry. Starting with 0 youth 2 years ago, our church now averages about 8 youth to our regular meetings. The certificate program will be an opportunity to envision new ways to connect Christian faith to young people, specifically in a cultural climate that is increasingly secular, pluralistic, and heavily engaged on social media. The certificate program involves learning from and dialoging with youth ministry leaders from the US and the UK (through an organization called Youthscape) during two separate conferences (in November 2018 and April 2019), as well as online coursework. The program will help me to nurture Christian faith in the young people I am actively pastoring in my church as well as reach out more effectively to young people in my community.

South Scholarships for Youth \$490

I have 7 kids from my youth group at New Life who might be able to come to the Roc SALT pilot mission project (Feb 2018), but all of these kids live in the inner-city and have no ability to pay the \$70 registration fee.

Summer Sattora Next Church Conference \$350

I am a recent seminary graduate who is discerning her call as she prepares to move from Inquirer to Candidate. I attended the Next Church conference in Baltimore this past spring at a time when I was really struggling with my call and found myself renewed. I firmly believe that Next Church is the direction the Church needs to go in and I find myself being rejuvenated whenever I remember my time there. Whether it was the workshops I attended, the sermons that were preached, or even just being around others who are looking for new ways of doing and being the Church, I feel this is the place for me. I was lucky enough to receive a scholarship to cover my registration and hotel and I am now looking for some help with my airfare. The conference is in Seattle this year and working two part time jobs, it would be a stretch of my budget to cover the entire thing. Any little bit would help, although based on my research the amount I am asking for would cover most, if not all, of the airfare. I definitely feel called to nontraditional ministry and any chance to explore that further is greatly appreciated. Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing from you.

2019 TOOLS & TRAINING GROUP EVENTS

Congregational Learning Day- February 9, 2019

Ecumenical Advocacy Days - April 5-8, 2019

Neighborhood Mission Day- April 27, 2019

Measuring Mission- On-going

Scholarships- On-going

Youth Triennium- July16-20, 2019

