

Dear Friends –

As of last evening, the Presbyteries of Newark, Palisades and Elizabeth have all voted to move forward with the New Jersey Missional Communities restructuring. That means that we are on our way!

Admittedly, some of us – as the hymn suggests - are on our way rejoicing. Others are grieving the loss of collegiality with people they've served alongside for a time. And still others are probably somewhere in between.

What we are calling a “local” transition team, or a Northeast presbytery transition team, made up of representatives of all three presbyteries has been meeting regularly. The group has been steadily working with the myriad of disparate puzzle pieces that will need to be assembled in order to create the finished picture that will be the new northeast New Jersey presbytery that is slated to become a reality as of March 1, 2021. We will be working from a timeline so everyone involved in the nuts and bolts of the transition is on the same page. And that includes all of you, too!

So how will we do that? For now, until we have a new presbytery name (stay tuned for how we will seek input for that piece) we will utilize the existing Newark Presbytery website – www.newarkpresbytery.org. There will be a link prominently placed on the homepage that will redirect you to anything having to do with the transition to the new presbytery. We will be posting FAQ's which will be updated as we continue along the journey. Once we have a new name, an entirely new website will be created.

And we will have regular opportunities to interact with, and get to know one another. You may recall that we had an event scheduled for March 14 – a mingling Dinner Party at the Montclair Art Museum. And then COVID-19 hit. So while it's not what we had originally planned, we will have a Zoom Mingling Dinner Party on **Saturday, December 5 from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.** Bring a beverage and some munchies and we will mingle via small group Zoom rooms that will rearrange periodically throughout our time together! A Zoom invite will be sent closer to the date.

Also scheduled are Coffee Breaks and Happy Hours, Lunch Bunches, and Pastor/Church Leader Check Ins. Zoom invites will be sent when these start at the beginning of November, and they will be recurring meetings so please keep the link!

Coffee Break – Mondays at 9:00 a.m.

Lunch Bunch – Tuesdays at Noon

Happy Hour – Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.

Pastor/Church Leader Check Ins – Thursdays at 10:30 a.m.

What about staff? A Search Team has been formed to begin to search for two positions that we have traditionally called a Presbytery Leader (by many different names) and a Stated Clerk. The intention is to find people that would work together as “co-leaders” with some obvious duties assigned to each. The Personnel Teams of the current presbyteries are working with their staffs to determine plans going forward.

Lastly, for now, we will be corresponding regularly in addition to posting information on the current Newark Presbytery website.

We look forward to where God is leading, confident that God is indeed doing a new thing!

Blessings –

Leslie Dobbs-Allsopp and Jeremy Campbell, Elizabeth Presbytery

Barbara Smith and Warren McNeill, Newark Presbytery

Steve Huston and Paul Rack, Palisades Presbytery