



“Housed Under”: The  
Classis Ministries  
Board



## Get to Know Your New Synod Mission Working Group

### **Task description:**

*“The Mission Working Group will work together to make recommendations to the whole body of the Classis Ministries Board, to provide resources and opportunities so that our congregations will be better equipped to engage in mission in their localities and in the larger world.”*

**Membership:** Clergy  
and non-clergy  
representing all six  
classes

Chair- Rev. Lucie  
Perkins (Reformed  
Church of Syracuse)

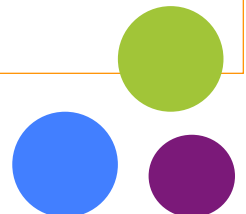
Synod staff-Harold  
Delhagen and Nancy  
McNiven

### **Request for a list of mission ministries in your congregation:**

The working group would like to collate and publish on our website and in other formats, a list of activities occurring in your congregation that represent our collective response to “do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God”. The working group will also use these lists in order to consider what is needed to move the group forward. You may already have heard of our request at spring classis meetings, and an email will go out later this summer to pastors, consistories and other groups.

**Check out the first entries listed on our web under the heading title, Classis Ministries Board.** This is an open invitation. Watch future “Currents” for MWG updates and requests.

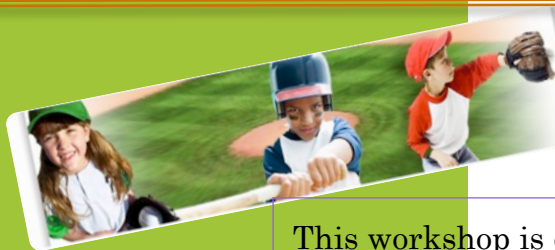
Please send Nancy McNiven (nmcniven@albansynod.org):  
Name of Church and Classis  
List of mission activities  
Contact name, email or phone number (If we do not have specific information, we will list the church’s email or phone number.)



## Classis Ministries Board Offerings

### Four Standards and a BCO Synod Living Stones

A Living Stones course on Reformed Church in America standards and policy is scheduled over two weekends: August 19-20 and September 9-10 (Friday, 6:30pm-9pm and Saturday 9am-2:30pm). *Four Standards and a BCO* is designed for preaching elder candidates and others interested in learning how our believing and working together are expressed through and guided by the Heidelberg Catechism, Belgic Confession, Canons of Dort, and Belhar Confession, as well as the Book of Church Order (BCO). The course instructor, Rev. Dr. Daniel Griswold, will lead participants in a consideration of what these important documents mean and how they are rightly used. The class will also explore how the Standards and the BCO continue to shape and challenge the church today. A reading list and syllabus will be sent to registrants in time to prepare for the first class session. The class will be located in the Schenectady area. Cost: \$200. \$25 discount if registered by August 1<sup>st</sup>. You can download a flyer with the registration form from our web events page. For information, contact Phyllis Palsma at the synod office.



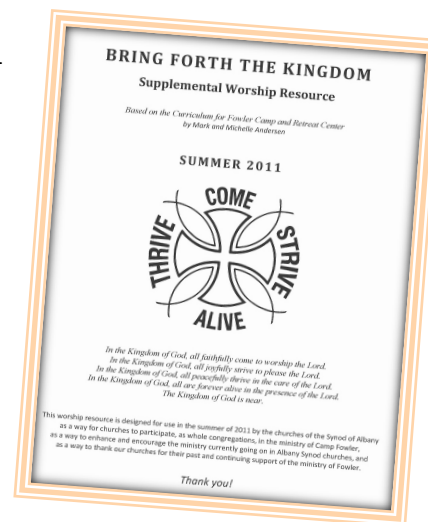
### Child Protection Workshop



This workshop is designed for congregations looking to create or revamp policies and procedures to reduce the risk of child abuse in the church. It includes a section for those who work with children and youth. **The next scheduled workshop is with a cluster group in Albany Classis on Thursday, August 4.** You can download the general flyer from our web events page. For more information, contact Nancy McNiven at the synod office or email her at [nmcniven@albany-synod.org](mailto:nmcniven@albany-synod.org).

### New Six-Week Worship Resource Available on our web

This resource, written by Mark and Michelle Andersen (Herkimer Reformed Church), is based on the curriculum for the Camp Fowler summer theme, “Bring Forth The Kingdom”. It’s designed for use by RSA congregations in the summer of 2011, as a way for the churches to take part (as a whole congregation) in the ministry of Camp Fowler, and as a way to enhance and encourage ministry currently going on in RSA churches. Thank you Mark and Michelle!



**June Additions to the Synod Lending Library**  
**Check out these resources on our web under**  
**“Synod Library”.**

- ***The Eight Blessings: Rediscovering the Beatitudes*** by Shane Standard-Adult study
- ***Mission Trips That Matter: Embodied Faith for the Sake of the World*** by Don C. Richter-Mission
- ***Journey To The Common Good*** by Walter Brueggemann-Missional church
- ***The Big Book of Bible Skits: 104 Seriously Funny Bible Teaching Skits*** by Tom Boal
- ***The Humongous Book of Bible Skits for Children’s Ministry*** by Group
- ***Almost Christian: What The Faith Of Our Teenagers Is Telling The American Church*** by Kendra Creasy Dean-Youth ministry
- ***Do The Hard Thing: A Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations*** by Alex and Brett Harris-Youth ministry
- ***Sustainable Youth Ministry: Why most youth ministry doesn’t last and what your church can do about it*** by Mark DeVries-Youth ministry
- ***Children First: Worshipping with the Family of God*** by Mark Burrows-Worship



**COURSES FOR PREACHING ELDER TRAINING – PLAN AHEAD FOR 2012!**

As calendars seem to fill rapidly, now is the time for Preaching Elder candidates to start scheduling the following CRTC courses for 2012:

-Preaching (*The Second Five Minutes*), taught by Rev. Bill Levering, will be held in January & February at First Reformed Church in Schenectady.

-*Spiritual Formation*, taught by Sister Kitty Hanley, is scheduled for April & May. Location to be announced.

-Peter Bedford will teach an *Introduction to the New Testament* on Tuesday evenings beginning October 9, 2012.

**LIFE-LONG LEARNING THROUGH THE CAPITAL REGION THEOLOGICAL CENTER**

Is God calling you to deepen your understanding of the Bible and its application to life in today’s world? Is your congregation calling you to explore leadership as a preaching elder or a Christian educator? Are you a life-long learner who seeks personal faith enrichment? If so, the CRTC is a place to look. The following courses are scheduled for fall 2011 and promise to hold fresh learning and opportunities for growth. Detailed information can be found at

[www.capitalrtc.org](http://www.capitalrtc.org).

Course	Instructor	Dates	Location
Empathy in Action: Introduction to Pastoral Care	William N. Grosch	Thursdays & Saturdays starting September 8	Lynnwood Reformed Church
Canoeing Through Creation	Kent Busman	September 12-15	Camp Fowler
Spirit, Grace & Power: Acts of the Apostles	Richard Carlson	October 20-21	Siena College
Opening the Doors: Helping Churches Welcome the Differently-abled	Catherine Paterson	October 27	Clinton Heights Community Congregational Church
Boundary Awareness	David Olsen	November 3	Lisha’s Kill Reformed Church
God is in the Details: Faith & Science Dialogue	Wesley Wildman	November 5	First Unitarian Universalist Society
Go Ye: The Nuts and Bolts of Planning a Mission Trip	Panel of Presenters	November 19	Good Shepherd Lutheran Church, Loudonville

## **CRTC Position Posting: Congregational Resource Manager**

The Capital Region Theological Center (CRTC) is seeking a Congregational Resource Manager (CRM). This is a full-time position with benefits. Reporting to the Executive Director of CRTC, the CRM will identify and develop local resources and assist congregations in finding solutions to meet congregational needs. This will include outreach activities, consulting with colleagues at affiliate organizations and maintaining and expanding a resource database. The ideal candidate will be familiar with local congregations, have strong communication and technical skills and exhibit creativity and flexibility. For additional information or to submit a resume contact CRTC at 518-462-2470 or [martha@capitalrtc.org](mailto:martha@capitalrtc.org).

## **Synod Website Expands Events Section To Include Synod Congregational Activities**

We are listening to your suggestions. In order to promote activities in our synod congregations, the web will now have a space under "Events" to publicize your:

- Church dinners/socials
- Festivals/special events, fundraisers

Information must be received a month in advance and include:

Event Title

Name of Church, address, email/phone number

Event date, time, Cost

Contact information

A short description of the event-three sentences or less  
The webmaster may edit the text.

Send to Nancy McNiven,  
[nmcniven@albanysynod.org](mailto:nmcniven@albanysynod.org)

## **CONGRATULATIONS**

**On Sunday, June 26, Sarah E. Palsma was ordained to the office of Minister of Word and Sacrament by Montgomery Classis in a service held at Pitcher Hill Community Church in North Syracuse.** Sarah is a May, 2011 graduate of Western Theological Seminary and has accepted a call to serve as Associate Pastor at Hew Hope Church (RCA) in Powell, Ohio.

**Rev. Lisa Vander Wal, Lisha's Kill Reformed Church, Schenectady, was elected president at last week's RCA General Synod.** For highlights of this year's synod go to the RCA website.

