

SHEPHERDING COUNCIL REPORT
The Presbytery of Long Island
March 21, 2017

#10 b 1:45 p.m.

Information:

The three forums led by our Moderator, Larry Keith, entitled "Let's Talk: Listening to God and each other in a new political environment" that were held at the Middle Island, Sag Harbor, and New Hyde Park churches have been concluded, with 50 persons participating from 23 different churches, but with little diversity in ideas and views.

The Shepherding Council asked the General Presbyter to send letters to Jewish and Muslim faith communities expressing our support and concern. The General Presbyter was asked to send a similar letter to the pastors and sessions to encourage personal conversations and contact with other faiths.

At the March 21st Presbytery meeting, churches will be asked to share how and what they are doing in their communities to bridge divides and reach out to those who feel vulnerable and threatened in the current climate. These stories will be presented for inclusion in *Nexus*

Motion:

The Shepherding Council recommends that the Presbytery merge the Peacemaking, Justice and Hunger Work Group with the Salt and Light Committee. The following is the proposal:

- Maintain its current team mission and goals
- Add the following new ministries:
- Administer grants with funds from the Peacemaking fund (which includes Peace & Global Witness Offering)
- Initiate, support, & encourage peace, justice, & hunger ministers on the congregational & community level
- support & encourage BFW (Bread for the World) hunger initiatives within Presbyterian congregations.

To accomplish these goals the Shepherding Council recommends that the Presbytery amend SR VI. B.1. as follows (added language **underlined** as follows:

B. Ministry Teams of the Presbytery

1. Salt and Light Team

Responsibilities:

The Salt and Light Team works to support congregational initiatives to partner with other Presbyterian and non-Presbyterian churches for mutual growth in ministry and discipleship. This team develops strategies for greater cooperation in pursuit of the Presbytery's vision, and supports teams of Presbyterian churches engaged in spiritual growth, evangelism, education or outreach. The Team is also the body of the Presbytery with the primary responsibility of supporting, facilitating, nurturing and developing partnership initiatives and connections for mission between Presbytery of Long Island congregations and other local, national, or international mission entities. Initiate, support & encourage peace, justice, & hunger ministries on the congregational and community level. This team encourages partnerships engaged in hands-on mission, social action and witness, and supports ecumenical mission endeavors in communities. The Team will support and encourage Bread for the World hunger initiatives with Presbyterian congregations.

Between meetings of the Presbytery, the Salt and Light Team shall have the authority to carry out any of the Presbytery's G-3.0303a authority. The Team shall have the Presbytery's authority to modify or clarify the grants described in [3] below.

3. Salt and Light Team Grants: The Team shall be responsible for the solicitation, receipt, and review of Presbytery Partnership Grant Applications for all work under its purview, and will be solely responsible for the awarding of such grants.

The Team shall administer grants with funds from the Presbyterian Peacemaking Fund (including Peace & Global Witness Offering"