



PRESBYTERY OF WESTERN NEW YORK

(716) 668-1995

2060 Union Road, West Seneca, New York 14224

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September 11, 2017

Dear Pastors, Clerks and Sessions of Churches of the PWNKY:

The Synod of the Northeast is completely funding a workshop for the Presbyteries of WNY, Genesee Valley, Geneva and Utica to be held on **Saturday, October 21, 2017** from 9am to 4:30pm at Gates Presbyterian Church in Rochester. The leaders, Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training from Illinois, have been engaged in helping organizations dismantle systemic racism and building racial justice since 1986.

Church leaders and all members are strongly encouraged to attend this important workshop. In light of so many recent incidents including Charlottesville, it is imperative to come together to increase our understanding of systemic racism. Observing that the PC(USA) is 91% white, our co-moderators of the 2016 General Assembly are encouraging us to read and educate ourselves about the role that racism plays in all aspects of our lives. Your church may have begun to study this topic and this workshop could be an important opportunity for learning and engagement. Hotel rooms are available for those who would like to come early, and lodging and the workshop are free of charge.

Enclosed are brochures to be distributed at your church. If you need more, they can be obtained online at [www.pbywny.org](http://www.pbywny.org). Also, please insert the bulletin announcement (below) to inform your congregation members. We hope there will be strong participation from your church. When we all come together to discuss difficult topics, progress and change can be made.

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Dorothy B. Pearman, Moderator of PWNKY  
Rev. Laura Norris Buisch, Stated Clerk  
Ruling Elder Mary Beth Karr, Former Moderator  
Rev. Dr. Howard Boswell, Former Moderator  
Rev. Leslie Latham, Synod of the Northeast Mission & Ministries Council

Join others from the Presbyteries of Western NY, Genesee Valley, Geneva and Utica on Saturday, October 21, 9 a.m.-4:30 p.m. to learn about systemic racism. This free-of-charge workshop will be held at Gates Presbyterian Church, 1049 Wegman Road, Rochester 14624. Our workshop leaders will be ministers who are trainer/organizers (one white and one non-white) from Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training in Chicago. Purpose of the workshop is to explore racism as a systemic, institutional problem of power that goes beyond personal prejudice. Participants will experience first-hand Crossroads' effective methodology for facilitating productive conversations about race. They will also be introduced to a strategic methodology that can assist people to effectively organize to dismantle racism in their institutions. These are important conversations in light of many recent incidents, including the demonstrations and death in Charlottesville, VA. Register online at <https://pbygenval.org/crossroads-workshop> or call 585-242-0080, Presbytery of Genesee Valley.

**CROSSROADS  
ANTI-RACISM  
ORGANIZING AND  
TRAINING**

Racism  
dehumanizes us all.

—

Dismantling racism  
heals us all.

*Recognizing that  
racism goes beyond  
personal prejudice,  
Crossroads offers a  
distinctive Power  
Analysis of how  
racism functions in  
institutions, and  
offers tools to create  
antiracist  
transformation.*



**On line Registration at:**

[https://pbygenval.org/  
crossroads-workshop/](https://pbygenval.org/crossroads-workshop/)

For registration questions, call  
Beth Weaver at 585-242-0080.

**Presbytery of Western  
New York  
716-668-1995**

**Presbytery of Genesee  
Valley  
585-242-0080**

**Geneva Presbytery  
315-536-7753**

**Utica Presbytery  
315-735-6311**



**Join the Presbyteries of  
Western NY, Genesee  
Valley, Geneva & Utica  
to Learn Together  
about Systemic  
Racism**



**Saturday,  
October 21, 2017  
9am—4:30pm**

**Gates Presbyterian Church  
1049 Wegman Road  
Rochester, NY 14624**

Each participant will be  
responsible for travel expense.  
Carpooling is encouraged by  
Presbytery—call to arrange.

On line registration at :  
[https://pbygenval.org/crossroads-  
workshop/](https://pbygenval.org/crossroads-workshop/)

**Saturday,  
October 21, 2017  
9am—4:30pm**

**Gates Presbyterian  
Church  
1049 Wegman Road  
Rochester, NY 14624**



**Suggested pre-reading:**

- *Waking up White* by Debby Irving (as recommended by 222nd GA co-moderators T. Denise Anderson and Jan Edmiston)
- *The Cross and the Lynching Tree* by James H. Cone



**CROSSROADS ANTIRACISM ORGANIZING & TRAINING**

DISMANTLING RACISM, BUILDING RACIAL JUSTICE IN INSTITUTIONS

**Introduction to Systemic  
Racism**

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Participants will experience first-hand Crossroads' effective methodology for facilitating productive conversations about race. They will also be introduced to a strategic methodology that can assist people to effectively organize to dismantle racism in their institutions.

Our workshop leaders will be ministers who are trainer/organizers (one white and one non-white) from Crossroads Anti-Racism Organizing and Training.

**ARRANGEMENTS**

We have set aside a block of hotel rooms at the Hampton Inn & Suites on the corner of Clay Road and Jefferson, just off of I-390. Each room includes breakfast and will have either 2 queens or a king size bed. Register for hotel when registering for event.

Lunch and snacks will be served at the church.

**COST & REGISTRATION**

This event is fully funded by the Synod of the Northeast. Each participant will be responsible for travel expenses. Carpooling is encouraged by participating Presbyteries, call your Presbytery to make arrangements.

On Line registration at:

<https://pbygenval.org/crossroads-workshop/>

For registration questions, call Beth Weaver at 585-242-0080.