

Two-Minutes for Mission

Your Presbytery Mission Pledge Nurtures Vital, Healthy Communities of Faith

In the Spring of 2017 representatives from over one third of Hudson River Presbytery congregations gathered at Stony Point Center for the inaugural session of Hudson River University. HRU, as it's affectionately called, equips congregational leaders with resources for ministry and mission, providing best practices in an interactive learning environment.

That Spring morning, Jack Krauss, Treasurer Germond's Presbyterian, came seeking help with updating his congregation's financial management systems. "Professor" Sarah Munsen, treasurer at Katonah Presbyterian, led a course on church finances together with Katonah's bookkeeper. They discussed the software programs and the types of checks and balances their process contains, position descriptions for key roles, the types of reports they provide to session and the finance committee. Sarah facilitated a conversation where everyone who attended shared their experiences and asked questions of one another. The result? Everyone learned, church financial leaders connected with one another, and everyone left with concrete skills and direction for effective financial ministry.

"I came looking for insights in how to improve my work as a treasurer," explains Jack, "and I certainly got it. I hope the word gets out that these things are really valuable. They did a very fine presentation. A number of good ideas on record keeping, on payroll, on dealing with the state and federal withholding and reporting. A much better understanding of what I do and my responsibilities. As a result, I restructured the ledger I keep and how to relate it to the overall budget of the church, and I am participating more fully in the budget development for the church." From finance to Christian Ed, officer training to advocacy workshops, HRU generated such enthusiasm it was held again in March 2018.

A highlight of Hudson River University's 2018 spring gathering was church officer training and clerk of session training. These trainings were videotaped and are now online at the Presbytery website: <http://hudrivpres.org> so that you can use in your own congregational leadership development.

Hudson River University is open to all and free of charge. And it's made possible by your congregation's generous mission giving. Thank you for all you're doing to offer meaningful, practical tools for leadership empowerment that nurtures healthy, vital communities of faith.