

**Synod Commission on Mission and Ministry report, April, 2026 meeting**

**We welcome** the opportunity to hear from Synod Leader Rev Dr SanDawna Gaulman Ashley at this May presbytery meeting.

**Work continued** in April at the commission meeting toward on the new vision Reimagining the Church in the World:

Bold in Faith

Transformative in Mission

United in Christ

With Spirit-led transformative faith and boundless welcome.

### **Congratulations to First Presbyterian Church, Hartford!**

**We celebrate** the voting of synod to First Presbyterian Church, Hartford innovation grant first year funding of \$10,000 toward its community project –The Hive.

The Hive envisions a collaborative community space where organizations and individuals come together to address systemic challenges and create meaningful change. It transforms church property into a shared environment that fosters creativity, justice, and mutual support.

The purpose is to build partnerships that maximize impact by sharing resources, ideas, and leadership. Through initiatives like the free market, the ministry provides essential goods while cultivating dignity and community engagement.

Anticipated outcomes include increased collaboration among organizations, expanded access to resources for those in need, and the development of a sustainable model for shared ministry. The Hive seeks to become a cornerstone of community transformation.

**We look forward to celebrating** the 40<sup>th</sup> ordination anniversary of Rev Holly Haile Thompson, the first indigenous woman ordained in the Presbyterian Church, October 11, 1986 ---and member of the Shinnecock tribe on Long Island. A Synod celebration is planned for October 24, 2026 in conjunction with Long Island Presbytery after the first synod meeting with the new synod structure.

**Check out** the synod website for ongoing information and ways to get involved:

<https://synodne.org/> and for more April 2026 commission meeting reporting:

<https://synodne.org/blog/2026/04/29/synod-commission-meeting-april-2026/>

Synod Moderator, Elder Lisa Baker

and PSNE commission representative Rev Christine Foster