



Keene Valley Congregational Church
A Welcoming Spiritual Community

Monthly Church Council Meeting
March 28, 2023 @ 5 PM

Agenda

- Opening Prayer and Reading
- Determination of Quorum
- Approval of Last Month's Meeting Minutes
- Council Retreat (John and Susie)
- JPN Event Update (Susie)
- WelcomeCorps Opportunity (Laurin)
- Personnel Task Force Update (Fritz)
- Bazaar Update (Dre)
- Website (John)
- Budget Timing (John)
- Partnering with OurStoryBridge (see below) (John)
- Reports
 - Grounds Report (Pam and Erica)
 - Mission and Social Action Report (Naj and Martha)
 - Manse Discernment Group Report (Debby)
 - Pastor's Report (John)
 - Treasurer's Report (Nancy)
 - Buildings Report (Derek)
 - Worship Committee Report (Linda)
 - Flower Committee Report (Charlotte)
 - Re-Opening Task Force Report (John)
 - CJC Report (Pam)
- Other Business
- Next Meeting
- Closing (Dre)



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Information about OurStoryBridge Partnership from Jerry Huntley:

John, I'm sending this to environmental groups and other organization in the Adirondacks. I think the Creation Justice group would be very supportive. I'm copying Debby Rice. I hope you can sign on and any help with other groups, on our tight time frame, is appreciated!

As explained below, OurStoryBridge (www.ourstorybridge.org) is asking you to become a "partner" in a two-year online short-form oral history project we are proposing to the National Endowment for the Humanities for a grant focusing on climate change and community resilience. The project will be greatly enhanced with partners like you and, of course, our chances of getting the grant are higher with you involved. But don't worry! As I explain below, we designed the obligations of partnership to ask very little of your time and resources -- because we know these are both precious!

Please respond by April 1 to let us know if you will allow us to list you as a partner. We are happy to do Zooms and calls to explain this further. If you do not want to participate, we'd appreciate a response as well. And if you want to suggest someone else in your organization to whom this would be better addressed, please let us know.

GRANT INFO:

As you well know: The Adirondack Park's 6.1 million acres, representing the largest intact deciduous forest in the world, with over 2,800 lakes and ponds, 1,500 miles of rivers fed by an estimated 30,000 miles of brooks and streams, has massive ecological significance for New York State, our country and the world. If you combine the facts that the Adirondacks are an important source of clean water, a refuge for wildlife and a sponge for greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide with their being home to over 130,000 year-round human residents and their industries, as well as a tourist destination for over 84 million people within a day's drive, not to mention the fact that close to half of this patchwork of private and public lands is protected by the world's strongest conservation law ("forever wild"), then this region of upstate NY quickly emerges as a global exemplar for communicating the impacts and challenges of -- and potential solutions to -- our climate crisis.*

Using its adaptive methodology, free resources and tool kit, OurStoryBridge is launching a new, community-driven story project of short-form oral histories



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focused on the topic of climate change, our climate crisis, and community resilience. With the Adirondacks as our point-of-entry, we are applying to a new grant program from the National Endowment for the Humanities: “Cultural and Community Resilience” supports “community-based efforts to mitigate climate change impacts, safeguard cultural resources, and foster cultural resilience through identifying, documenting, and/or collecting cultural heritage and community experience.” With your help, our goal is to collect and share online three- to five-minute audio stories, with scrolling photographs, from local community leaders across sectors, students, educators, researchers, advocates, activists, and the general public. The concentration of stories from the Adirondacks will then lead into the rest of the country, in an effort to collect at least 250 stories related to our climate crisis to coincide with the nation’s 250th Anniversary in 2026.

PARTNERSHIP INFO:

Being a "partner" for this grant proposal to the National Endowment for the Humanities means that you:

1. Will suggest possible storytellers from your organization, others, and the general public
2. Understand that you have the option to join our Advisory Board to plan the project
3. May suggest people in your organization to be trained to take stories
4. Will include in your communications your participation in this project to recruit storytellers, bring people to the website to listen to stories, and inspire them to take part in our events
5. Write a letter of commitment (MOU) for the project that we can include in the grant to confirm your participation as "partner", for which OurStoryBridge can provide the boilerplate language.

**Please let us know by April 1 whether you agree to participate.
Thank you!**

To listen to OurStoryBridge stories from current Adirondack communities and organizations, go to: www.myadirondackstory.org, www.freedomstoryproject.org, www.northelbanarratives.com, www.adkvoices.org, and willsborostorybridge.org.