September 9 Newsletter from NYSCOC

WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? SEMINARS - **REGISTER NOW**

When Jesus told his listeners to love God and love their neighbor, people started looking for a loophole. They asked, "Who is my neighbor?" Has your community--or your congregation--been asking that same question? Who belongs here? Who do we need to welcome? Who do we need to assist?

The New York State Council of Churches is bringing together congregations, planners, advocates, developers and other leaders to engage these questions and to develop some creative responses.

- We know that our communities need to include housing for seniors and disabled adults and low-income workers. *Can we become more effective advocates for these projects?*

- We know that we need to get creative and find new uses for abandoned lots and foreclosed properties. *Can we become catalysts for redevelopment efforts?*

- We know that the property that houses of worship own--buildings and land--often feels like a burden. *Can we find new ways to use our property so that we can become part of the solution to the challenges facing our cities and towns?*

[Click here for a promotional flyer to share](#) through your network in addition to this announcement.

Beginning in October 2019, the NYSCOC with Goldstein Hall Attorneys at Law and Pace University Land Use Law Center will be leading five regional conferences in White Plains, Medina, Long Island, Saratoga Springs and Syracuse where we will connect our social and theological insights with hands-on training in design and advocacy. [Learn more here, including information concerning sponsorships, and register now.](#)

**ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS NEEDED**

**WORKING FAMILIES TAX RELIEF ACT**

We need your help. The Working Families Tax Relief Act H.R. 3157. The HTC offers an excellent opportunity to improve the economic security of many working New Yorkers. It strengthens the highly successful Earned Income Tax Credit. It also improves the Child Tax Credit (CTC) helping millions more children in low-income families get a good start in life. Working with the Fiscal Policy Institute, The Schuyler Center and others, we are seeking signatures from at least 50 faith communities, not-for-profits, advocacy groups and other organizations on this letter which will be sent to Congressional Representatives in New York.
Please review the language in [the letter at this link](#) which will be sent to the members later in September, and add your organization to the list of supporters via our [online response form](#). [Click here for data about the EITC and CTC](#) for each congressional district. **Please complete your sign on by 5pm on Wednesday, September 11.**

Every day, working New Yorkers are left behind as their wages continue to stagnate and costs continue to rise. Let’s be sure our representatives understand how important strengthening and expanding the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and Child Tax Credit (CTC) is to the people and communities they represent. Thank you for your help in seeing this important legislation passed.

**IMMIGRATION**

*The Immigrant Justice Advocacy Forum, Saturday, September 14, from 12:30 pm – 4:30 pm at Snyder Hall, Siena College:* is being held as part of the Troy YWCA’s “Stand Against Racism” initiative. There will be presentations on immigration law history and the role that racism has played in US immigration policies, and a panel discussion on advocacy.

**ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY**

**TACKLING THE CLIMATE CRISIS IN NEW YORK STATE**

**October 1, 2019**

Messiah Lutheran Church

2850 Guilderland Avenue

Rotterdam, New York 12306

Join us at 7 PM, Tuesday, October 1, for a full discussion of the state of environmental policy in New York State. Topics will include implementation of the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, the Green New Deal and divestment of fossil fuel stocks.

Join The Reverend Dustin Wright, Pastor, Messiah Lutheran Church and President, New York State Council of Churches, The Reverend Peter Cook, Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches, Dr. Merle Longwood, Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies, Siena College, Mr. Bob Cohen, Citizen Action and New York Renews, and Mr. Mark Dunlea, Green Education and Legal Fund, 350 NYC, and People of Albany United for Safe Energy. [Visit this link for additional information](#).
IS YOUR COMMUNITY ORGANIZED TO RESPOND TO A DISASTER?

HOW CAN FAITH LEADERS LEND THEIR ASSISTANCE?

One critical role of faith leaders is to be familiar with their community’s disaster response plan and discern how religious people can be of assistance. In many counties, these plans are just starting to be formulated. Clergy need to work in partnership with relief grounds to ensure there is a plan and, as appropriate, to understand how faith leaders can be of assistance.

The New York State Council of Churches will be making faith leaders aware of opportunities to learn more about disaster response work in 2019 and 2020. Groups we will seek to engage include: VOAD, of which New York State Council is a long-time member, city, county and state planners for disaster preparedness, The New York State Chaplain Task Force, The Red Cross, The Salvation Army and others. Below are the first two opportunities. Stay tuned for further events as we seek to do a public education on this important ministry.

DISASTER RESPONSE

CAPITAL DISTRICT MINISTERIAL FELLOWSHIP SEPTEMBER MEETING

Light of the World Christian Church

Friday, September 20, 2019. 12 noon - 2:30 pm

28 Sparrowbush Rd.

Latham, NY 12110

Rev. Marcos A. Miranda, D.Min., BCC., is the Founder, President, and CEO of New York State Chaplain Task Force, and its national division U.S. Chaplain Task Force, both affiliates of Spiritual Care Association. He also serves as senior pastor at Action In Christ International and as Assistant Dean at New York Divinity School. An author, consultant, and educator, he has traveled throughout the United States delivering lectures, trainings, and workshops on crisis, trauma, and disaster spiritual care. A board-certified chaplain, he currently serves as Chaplain at Homeland Security Investigations and the New York State Fraternal Order of Police. He presently has around 3,000 chaplains who serve with him. Contact The Reverend Bruce Hersey for more information:
NEW YORK DISASTER INTERFAITH SERVICES

Fall Summit for New York City Religious Leaders: Crisis Emotional & Spiritual Care

TUESDAY OCTOBER 29TH, 8:30 TO 4:00

THE SALVATION ARMY, 120 WEST 14TH STREET, MANHATTAN

NYDIS invites you to our Fall Preparedness Summit for NYC Religious Leaders on Crisis Emotional & Spiritual Care.

· Disaster Spiritual Care Best Practices
· Emotional & Spiritual Care After Traumatic Events
· Self-Care for Clergy and Caregivers
· Emotional & Spiritual Responses to Hate Crimes in NYC
· Training, Credentialing, and Deployment for Disaster Chaplaincy and Emotional Spiritual Care

Keynote Speaker: Rev. Dr. Willard W. C. Ashley, SCP, NCPsyA

Registration is Free. Halal, Kosher, and Vegan Breakfast and Lunch are Provided. Includes 1GB Flash drive with 262 Faith-Based Resilience Resources. Click here to register.

In faith,

Peter Cook

Executive Director