SEEKING NOMINATIONS FOR NEW YORK STATE COUNCIL OF CHURCHES’ EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR 2020

We are looking ahead to our Fifth Annual Awards and Fundraising Dinner to be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2020 in Albany at St. Sophia Orthodox Church. We request your help in identifying nominees for the awards – categories and recent winners below. We want to hear from you about folks you have noticed doing great work in chaplaincy, ecumenism, faith formation and social justice. The awardees for the last three years are noted below to help get you thinking about people you know. And be in touch with your judicatory leaders and others in your network for any further suggestions – we want to spread the word about faithful ministries in New York State and increase awareness and excitement around the dinner.

NOW ACCEPTING NOMINATIONS DUE ON DECEMBER 11. We will make decisions about our 2020 nominees at our December Executive Committee meeting

Do know someone you’d like to honor for their work in areas of Chaplaincy, Ecumenism, Faith Formation and Social Justice? We are now receiving nominations for these awards. We will present awards to up to six people who distinguish themselves in these four categories.

Chaplaincy

We are looking to award chaplains and chaplaincy volunteers (current and retired) who have distinguished themselves in their service in state institutions including the Office of Mental Health, Department of Corrections and Community Supervision, Office of Children and Family Services, Office for People with Developmental Disabilities and also chaplaincy in county and community settings.

2019 Awardees:
The Reverend Petero Sabune, Retired Chaplain, NYS Department of Corrections and Community Supervision
Kairos Prison Ministries

2018 Awardees:
The Reverend John Koopman, Director of Hospital Chaplaincy, Broome County Council of Churches
The Reverend Cleveland Thornhill, Chaplain at Bedford Hills Correctional Facility

2017 Awardees:
The Reverend Gilberto Hidalgo, Chaplain of Otisville and Ulster Correctional Facilities
The Reverend Frank Nichols, Retired Chaplain, Albion Correctional Facility
The Reverend Pearl Snell, Chaplain, Albion Correctional Facility

2016 Awardees
The Reverend J.Edward Lewis, Chaplain, Fishkill Correctional Facility
The Reverend Edward Mueller, Chaplain (Ret), New State Department of Corrections

Ecumenism

We are looking for individuals or groups who have distinguished themselves in bridging divides among many different Christian communions.

2019 Awardees:
The Reverend Ann Akers, Pastor, First Presbyterian Church, Port Jervis
The Reverend Aaron Baughman, Pastor, St. Peter’s Lutheran Church, Port Jervis
Zachary Pearce, Deerpark Reformed Church, Port Jervis

2018 Awardee:
The Reverend Dr. Chloe Breyer, Executive Director, Interfaith Center of New York
2017 Awardees:
The Reverend Dr. William Wilkinson, Synod of the Northeast, Presbyterian USA
The Right Reverend Prince Singh, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Rochester

2016 Awardees:
The Right Reverend R. William Franklin, Bishop, Episcopal Diocese of Western New York
The Right Reverend Richard Joseph Malone, Bishop, Roman Catholic Diocese of Buffalo

**Faith Formation**
We are looking for individuals or groups who have distinguished themselves in helping people of all ages grow in their discipleship through faith formation.

2019 Awardee:
The Reverend Kate Forer, Senior Pastor, New England Congregational and Presbyterian Church, Saratoga Springs

2018 Awardee:
The Reverend Dr. James Giles, Executive Director, Back to Basics Ministries, Buffalo

2017 Awardee:
Ms. Christy D’Ambrosio, Youth Director, First Presbyterian Church of Albany
The Reverend Horace Sanders, Chief Diversity Officer, Schenectady Inner City Ministry, Senior Pastor, Mt. Olivet Missionary Baptist Church

2016 Awardee
The Reverend Brooke Newell, Pastor, First United Methodist Church of Potsdam

**Social Justice**
We are looking for individuals and groups which have really distinguished themselves in showing courage to do social justice work in religious and secular settings.

2019 Awardees:
Brigit Hurley, Policy Director, Children’s Agenda, Rochester
Hotel Trades Council of New York
Ravi Ragbir, Executive Director, New Sanctuary Coalition

2018 Awardees:
Mr. Michael Kink and Mr. Charles Khan, Strong Economy for All
Ms. Jamaica Miles, Lead Organizer for Capital District, Citizens Action of New York

2017 Awardees:
Mr. Marc Greenberg, Executive Director, Interfaith Assembly on Homelessness and Housing
Mr. Dominick Patrignani and the workers of Momentive. Mr. Patrignani is President of International Union of Electricians – Communications Workers of America, - Local 81359
Mr. Timothy Vogt and the workers of Honeywell. Mr. Vogt is President of United Auto Workers, Local 1508

2016 Awardees
Ms. Karen Magee, President, New York State United Teachers

Please send nominations and reasons for your recommendations with title and contact information of both you and the nominee to Karen Lapierre, NYSCOC Office Manager at office@nyscoc.org. Or You may also call or write Peter Cook at 508-380-8289, pcook@nyscoc.org or Dustin Wright, President, at pastor@messiahschenectady.org or 603-953-8782.