WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR? SEMINARS - MANHASSET, SARATOGA SPRINGS, SYRACUSE

We cordially invite you to New York State Council of Churches’ Who is My Neighbor Community Development Seminars. Our next seminar will be held in Manhasset on January 28 from 9 to 4. We invite you to register by going to [WWW.nyscoc.org](http://WWW.nyscoc.org). The seminars are premised in the idea that communities of faith are best served and renewed by building strong relationships with people and institutions in their neighborhood, city and region. We also offer congregations tools for engaging their communities and advocating for zoning laws, comprehensive plans, community planning processes which pave the way for welcoming a greater diversity of people. It is out of this intentional relationship building and advocacy work, that opportunities will unfold for better using space and property in small and very large ways to bless our communities.

What’s our theme song?

Quite simply mission, justice seeking and relationship building leads to renewal and opportunity for congregations. Come join us! If you can’t come to Manhasset, then join us for seminars in Saratoga Springs on March 17 and Syracuse on May 19.

Below is a promotional flyer for the Long Island seminar that you can share with your congregation and networks.

**WHO IS MY NEIGHBOR SEMINAR COMING TO LONG ISLAND ON JANUARY 28**

**SERVING LONG ISLAND, NEW YORK CITY AND SOUTHERN NEW YORK**

**COMMUNITY REFORMED CHURCH**

90 Plandome Road Manhasset

9:00 to 4:00

Many congregations struggle to grow or at least reverse their decline. Worship attendance might be flat and the Sunday school is not brimming. Some congregations are in buildings which are outdated, underutilized or in disrepair. Finances could be strained.

It’s easy to get wrapped up in our own concerns.

In our common struggles, we can sometimes forget that there are many neighbors in our neighborhood and city who know nothing of our shortcomings but are in need of our care and witness. In fact, it is possible that our renewal is dependent on re-embracing our mission to serve others. We must remember that our “parish” is not comprised of just the people in our building but those who are in our neighborhood, city and region.
The New York State Council of Churches, Pace University Land Use Law Center, Goldstein Hall Attorneys at Law, Long Island Council of Churches, Long Island Housing Partnership, ERASE Racism, the Community Development Corporation of Long Island, Enterprise Community Partners, American Institute of Architects, Fair Housing Justice Center of New York, Leviticus Fund, Community Preservation Corporation of New York, Local Initiatives Support Corporation, Homes and Community Renewal of New York, The Governor’s Office of Faith Based Initiatives, United Methodist City Society, Upper New York Conference, United Methodist Church and many others invite congregations from Long Island and Southern New York to the Community Reformed Church in Manhasset on Tuesday, January 28, 2019 (February 5 is a snow date) for our third Who is My Neighbor seminar.

At this seminar we will help you and your congregation:

Ø Refocus on your mission and love your neighbors well.

Ø Build relationships and lead in your communities to address attitudinal, structural, planning challenges like Not in My Backyard, zoning rules, and outdated comprehensive plans, which often prevent cities from welcoming people of all races and incomes.

Ø Learn from architects, attorneys, clergy and others how to restore sanctuaries and community space, maximize rentals, build childcare centers, schools, arts centers, food pantries, and construct affordable housing.

Ø Explore opportunities for financing.

Go to WWW.NYSCOC.org to register, to see samples from past seminars, and view resource materials. If you have questions or would like to discuss your congregation’s needs and situation, contact The Reverend Peter Cook. Executive Director, New York State Council of Churches at Pcook@nyscoc.org or 508-380-8289 or the Reverend Heather Kirk-Davidoff at at kirkdavidoff@gmail.com or 240-281-5005.

We are here to help. We look forward to having you join us!