

# 2002 Annual Report



*Pictured from left: Jenna Tiitsman and Kathie Tiitsman.*

## Presbyterian Welcome

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Dear Pastors, Members of Sessions, Steering Committee members, Volunteers and Friends,

This Annual Report records and celebrates our work together in 2002—a year of branching out for Presbyterian Welcome. Despite some hurdles—Amendment A falling short of ratification, the “judicial season” of G-6.0106b, continued economic slowdown nationwide, and the drums of war—Presbyterian Welcome’s mission neither slowed down nor veered off course. The vision and actions of committed leaders, volunteers and churches remained our primary source of nourishment, enabling our accomplishments and spurring on our growth.

In 2002, our organization of inclusive churches experienced an unprecedented degree of leadership development. The Steering Committee expanded its number of active leaders and drew them from a wider range of congregations. The Executive Committee became a cohesive leadership group. Presbyterian Welcome was a field education site for a seminary intern, for the second year in a row. The Second Annual Benefit Concert was enlivened by participation from more regional churches than the year before. The budget grew. The number of outreach visits to churches and groups increased significantly over prior years. The Advisory Board met for the first time.

2002 was also a year when Presbyterian Welcome worked in greater

partnership with other Presbyterian organizations in the area. Our ministry joined with Presbyterian Promise (Southern New England) and the Act of Conscience churches (Hudson River) in hosting the Spring 2002 That All May Freely Serve Conference at the Stony Point Center. In the fall, we collaborated again in sponsoring the inspiring Reformation Sunday event in Dobbs Ferry, NY. Leaders from Presbyterian Welcome met with groups for the first time in Monmouth, West Jersey, and New Brunswick Presbyteries. It was a blessing to be branching out in this way.

When Presbyterian Welcome and partner organizations press again for reforming ordination standards, these efforts will bear fruit because of the branching-out of our ministry now. One Presbyterian Welcome pastor noted that deeper roots will also be required: wider circles of support and expanded networks of congregations working together for a Church as inclusive as God’s grace.

“If the root is holy, then the branches are also holy,” Paul wrote to the Romans [11:16]. May our faith in God’s love for us be the deepest source of energy for this work. May Christ’s call be the encouragement and guidance we need for branching out.

Your Coordinator,  
Rev. Cliff Frasier



*Pictured from left: John Rhodes, Cliff Frasier, and Margaret Scott.*

## Evangelism and Outreach

### Introduction

The heart of Presbyterian Welcome's mission is to connect with congregations of Presbyterian churches through speaking engagements, visits, preaching, workshops, and other forms of outreach and evangelism. In 2002, staff and volunteers engaged dozens of Presbyterian groups in churches and seminaries, and connected with programs of a number of official Presbytery gatherings as well. In total, over 40 such outreach initiatives took place.

We cannot record all the moments of outreach and evangelism in 2002. Hundreds of contacts were made with individuals throughout the year, to the purpose of building and expanding support for our mission. Below are recorded many such moments, which imply many more connections made.

### Our Witness in Churches

In 2002, Presbyterian Welcome witnessed in 23 different Presbyterian congregations. The following churches received visits on Sunday mornings by Rev. Cliff Frasier, to the purpose of expanding and/or strengthening the Presbyterian Welcome network of relationships: Calvary Presbyterian Church (Staten Island); Ft. Schyler Presbyterian Church (The Bronx); Union of Bay Ridge Presbyterian Church (Brooklyn); First Presbyterian Church (NYC); First Presbyterian Church (Elizabeth NJ); First Presbyterian Church (Jamaica, Queens); First Presbyterian Church (Newtown, Queens); Mt. Morris Park Presbyterian Church (NYC); First Presbyterian Church (Astoria, Queens); Glenmore Ave Presbyterian Church (Brooklyn); Eastchester Presbyterian Church (The Bronx); Rutgers Presbyterian Church (NYC); The Brick Presbyterian Church (NYC).

The following churches were the venues for Presbyterian Welcome preaching, minutes for mission, or other speaking engagements:

- A Community of the Servant Savior, Houston, TX (Feb 3, Cliff Frasier preached)
- Rutgers Presbyterian Church, NYC (Feb 10, Cliff Frasier preached)
- Trinity Presbyterian Church, NYC (March 5, Cliff Frasier preached)
- Palisades Presbyterian Church (April 21, Cliff Frasier preached)
- Second Presbyterian Church, NYC (April 28, Lisa Larges and Mieke Vandersall team-preached)
- Central Presbyterian Church, NYC (May 5, Cliff Frasier preached)
- First Presbyterian Church, NYC (May 5, *Old First Salutes Presbyterian Welcome*—with presentations by Jim Uleman, Mieke Vandersall, Alicia Mathewson, Nancy Goshaw, Cliff Frasier, Gary Ireland, John Rhodes and Margaret Scott)
- The Riverside Church (June 2, after-church presentation by Cliff Frasier)



David Cockroft



From left, Holly Neidha and Yvonne Armstrong

- First Presbyterian Church, Elizabeth, NY (June 14, Cliff Frasier preached)
- Broadway Presbyterian Church (June 30, Cliff Frasier preached)
- Central Presbyterian Church, NYC (July 7, Cliff Frasier preached)
- Union of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn, NY (Aug 4, Cliff Frasier preached)
- University Heights Presbyterian Church, The Bronx, NY (Aug 18, presentation on the mission of Presbyterian Welcome by Cliff Frasier)
- Montclair Presbyterian Church, Oakland, CA (Sept 8, Cliff Frasier preached)
- Jan Hus Presbyterian Church, NYC (Oct 6, TAMFS Evangelist Annie Petker preached)

### Outreach for the vote on Amendment A

In early 2002, Presbyterian Welcome devoted time and resources to assist in the campaign to ratify Amendment A (originally the New York City Overture) through a majority vote of the regional presbyteries. Although the Amendment was not ratified nationwide, Presbyterian Welcome was able to make new contacts and to demonstrate leadership in a number of locations throughout the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

In January, Cliff Frasier visited Amendment A organizers in the Lake Erie Presbytery, the Eastern Virginia Presbytery, and the Presbytery of North Puget Sound. John Rhodes and Cliff Frasier also visited with Amendment A strategists in the West Jersey Presbytery.

In early February, Cliff Frasier met with Amendment A organizers in the New Covenant Presbytery. On February 4, John Rhodes and Cliff Frasier led a regional meeting at Princeton Theological Seminary for Amendment A strategists from the presbyteries of New Brunswick, Newark, West Jersey, and Philadelphia. This was the first gathering of its kind in New Jersey. It was initiated by Presbyterian Welcome and co-sponsored by the BGLASS group at Princeton Seminary as well as by Princeton's Covenant Network group. In addition, John Rhodes and Cliff Frasier met with Amendment A organizers in the Monmouth Presbytery.

On February 19<sup>th</sup>, it was confirmed that Amendment A would fail to be ratified by a majority of presbyteries. In response, on February 21<sup>st</sup> members of Presbyterian Welcome gathered on the steps of Rutgers Presbyterian Church to share feelings of outrage and grief, and to rally determination to continue the struggle for equality in our denomination. Speakers included Rev. Liz Alexander, Cornell Edmunds (of the New York City Presbytery), Cheryl Pyrch, Rev. Byron Shafer, Rev. Bob Brashear, and Rev. Alistair Drummond. After songs and Bible readings, members signed a Statement of Recommitment that read: *"We recommit ourselves to witness to God's welcome to GLBT people. We will continue the struggle for a Church as inclusive as God's grace."*

## Our Witness Among Other Groups

In 2002, Presbyterian Welcome was very active in connecting to Presbyterian groups and several other organizations as well. In January, Rev. Walt Tennyson and Rev. Cliff Frasier led a workshop entitled *Practicing Hospitality* for members of the New Brunswick Presbytery during their *Church Leadership Development Day* at Princeton Seminary. In March, Rev. Dae Eun Jung and Rev. Cliff Frasier presented on the topics *Presbyterian Welcome and Theology for an Inclusive Church* for doctoral students from New York Theological Seminary. Also in March, Cliff Frasier assisted with planning and group leadership in relation to a presentation by Moderator Freda Gardner at Union Theological Seminary. Later in the year at Union Seminary, Cliff Frasier was invited to give a presentation to incoming students on the ministry of Presbyterian Welcome.

In April, Presbyterian Welcome was invited to offer a panel discussion entitled *The Future After Amendment A*, as a part of BGLASS week. Cliff Frasier, Quinn Caldwell, David Cockcroft, Nancy Neal and guest Michael Adee from More Light Presbyterians formed the team for that speaking engagement. Also in April, David Cockcroft and Cliff Frasier participated in the board meeting of Presbyterian Promise in

Connecticut, and Janie Spahr and Cliff Frasier attended the regional meeting of the Hudson River *Act of Conscience* group.

In October, Presbyterian Welcome participated for the first time in Presbyterian Women's Day, sponsored by the Presbyterian Women of the New York City Presbytery. Liz Alexander and Matthew Jones spoke at the Plenary Session, and then joined with John Rhodes in leading a workshop on the ministry of Presbyterian Welcome. Also in October, Presbyterian Welcome offered 3 educational programs at Presbytery Day of the New York City Presbytery, including a workshop entitled *Transgender Identity and Spirituality*, led by a special guest, Elder Sara Herwig from First Presbyterian Church in Waltham MA.

Later in the Fall, Cliff Frasier visited the organizing meeting of the new group *Honoring All Voices* of the Long Island Presbytery, and spoke about the work of Presbyterian Welcome. In December, Presbyterian Welcome hosted an outreach table at the NYC Gay and Lesbian Community Center as part of their Center Orientation event. Also in December, an outreach team (Alline Mattheson, Don Olinger, John Rhodes and Cliff Frasier) met with members of the transgender group of the Metropolitan Community Church in NYC. \*

## Presbyterian Welcome Events

### **Stole-making Day and Communion Worship Service February 16, Rutgers Presbyterian Church**

Presbyterian Welcome hosted a stole-making workshop, so that new stoles from the New York region could be made and sent to the growing collection known as the Shower of Stoles. The Shower of Stoles Project displays stoles that represent individuals who cannot serve the Church openly because of their sexual orientation. Led by Seminary Intern Quinn Caldwell and by John Lembo, a group gathered together and used a sewing machine and materials for creating colorful stoles to represent six persons from Presbyterian Welcome. After the workshop, Quinn Caldwell, Rev. Ruth Garwood and Rev. Cliff Frasier led a service of worship with communion.

### **Service of Lament and Recommitment**

#### **March 3, First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York**

Presbyterian Welcome joined with the session of First Presbyterian Church in hosting a special worship service in response to Amendment A falling short of ratification. The Rev. Jon Walton preached on Luke 18:1-8, the Widow and the Unjust Judge. Musicians from Broadway Presbyterian Church (Patrick Evans, Djordje Nestic, Kathleen La Penta and Matthew Willis), as well as Chris Shelton and Clarissa Sincerno-Taylor, offered music. Jackie Fike hosted the reception, and numerous Presbyterian Welcome leaders took part in the service including Rev. Liz Alexander, Quinn Caldwell, Lissa Dodgington, Rev. Alistair Drummond, Rev. Ruth Garwood, Gary Ireland, Rev. Cliff Frasier, Barbara Nilpirom, Margaret Scott, Rev. Byron Shafer, Jim Uleman, Mieke Vandersall, and MJ Van Loon.

The service was timely and healing. It allowed for members of Presbyterian Welcome to grieve, reflect, and look ahead towards our continuing mission as inclusive churches working together.

#### **June 1, Brooklyn Pride**

A contingent from Presbyterian Welcome marched, for the first time, in the Brooklyn Pride Parade, and distributed Presbyterian Welcome literature to parade observers.

#### **6<sup>th</sup> Annual Presbyterian Welcome Commissioning Service June 9, Second Presbyterian Church, NYC**

Presbyterian Welcome and Second Presbyterian Church hosted our sixth annual Commissioning Service. Leaders and volunteers were commissioned to serve in various roles. Members of the 2002 Steering Committee (see page 6) were commissioned, as were marchers in the Heritage of Pride Parade, and participants in the Evelyn Davidson Memorial Water Project.

The Rev. Leslie Merlin preached on the theme, *Should We In Our Own Strength Confide?* We remembered and celebrated the lives of Lucienne Benard, Cathy Blaser and Claudia Hall. We commissioned stoles (for the Shower of Stoles Project) in recognition of individuals whose ministries are threatened by G-6.0106b.

A collection of stoles from The Shower of Stoles Project were hung in the sanctuary. 13 member churches and one additional church provided chalices and bread for communion. We also enjoyed the wonderful hospitality of the Second Presbyterian Church's Board of Deacons at a sumptuous reception following the service.

### ***Circle of More Light Reunion Celebration*** **June 29, West Park Presbyterian Church**

On the eve of Pride Sunday, twenty people gathered for a reception at West Park Presbyterian Church to hear the stories of three founders of the More Light Movement: Andy Achsen, Alice Hudon, and Rev. Charlie Mitchell—and to welcome Michael Adee, National Field Organizer for More Light Presbyterians.

### ***Heritage of Pride Parade and the Evelyn Davidson Memorial Water Project, June 30***

The annual Heritage of Pride Parade once again included a strong Presbyterian presence. The event provided an opportunity to celebrate and rally in support of LGBT people, and to distribute information about the mission of Presbyterian Welcome to the public at large. The parade afforded an occasion for our member churches, individuals, and the related advocacy group Presbyterian Promise of Southern New England, to gather and demonstrate our collective support. Rutgers, Gethsemane and Jan Hus churches brought colorful banners to add to the Presbyterian Welcome display, with the Presbyterian Welcome van anchoring our presence. Altogether our denominational contingent numbered over 30 people. Dozens more served water to marchers in front of First Presbyterian Church.



Cliff Fraiser



Joan Marino

### ***2nd Annual Benefit Concert*** **October 5, Good Shepherd Faith Presbyterian Church**

“Live from Lincoln Center, Presbyterian Welcome presents: Joyful Music Leads Us Sunward.”

A Yamaha Grand piano the size of a limousine . . . Rev. Ruth Garwood in a dress . . . Phil Greenland (concert director) not in a Hawaiian shirt, and a wide-ranging amalgam of musical performers from throughout the New York City Presbytery combined together for a successful evening of music, inspiration, and merry-making.

We were blessed with music from The Neuravian Trombone Ensemble (in residence at West End Presbyterian Church), the Lafayette Avenue Inspirational Ensemble (Lafayette Ave. Presbyterian Church), soloist Chris Shelton (Union Theological Seminary), soloist Sherry Zanoth with accompanist George Davey (Rutgers Presbyterian Church), The Not-for-Prophets (Jan Hus Presbyterian Church), The West End Presbyterian Church Gospel Choir, The Broadway Presbyterian Church Choir, soloist Barbara Marino (First Presbyterian Church NYC), The Second Presbyterian Church Choir, soloist Alicia Mathewson (composer of the new musical *Love According to Luc*), and The Fifth Avenue Gospel Singers (in residence at the Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church).

The Concert was planned and produced by Steering Committee members Phill Greenland and Holly Nedelka. Paul Sanner, Minister of Music at Second Presbyterian Church, provided musical accompaniment for soloists. Rev. Annie Petker (from *That All May Freely Serve—Northern California*) and Rev. Liz Alexander offered reflections on “Why We Do This Work.” They testified that we do this work not just for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people, but for all people who are oppressed.

Jim Nedelka, the Concert stage manager, was quoted as saying, “I can’t wait for the next one, but please, turn off those cell phones!”

### ***Reformation Sunday “Here I stand, I cannot do otherwise”*** **October 27, South Presbyterian Church, Dobbs Ferry**

The much anticipated Reformation Sunday service was a great success. Almost 300 people filled the pews of South Church in Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County, New York. Written words cannot convey the tremendous spirit and joy that emanated from that afternoon. This was the first event planned and hosted by the three groups: the Dissenting Churches of Hudson River, Presbyterian Promise (from the Presbytery of Southern New England) and Presbyterian Welcome. The Journal News and News 12 Westchester covered the event.

The afternoon began with conga drumming and a call to worship that brought many members of the congregation up to the chancel with statements of reformation. These statements were then nailed to a door, echoing Martin Luther’s potent legacy. The reformation door was placed on sawhorses and transformed into a communion table from which clergy and re-affirmed GLBT church officers served bread and wine to the worshippers. The service also included songs from the Gay Men’s Ambassador Chorus and an insightful sermon by the Rev. Hal Porter, Minister Emeritus of Mt. Auburn Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati. Rev. Porter traced the PC-USA’s present turmoil to the actions of the 1978 General Assembly, which stated categorically that unrepentant homosexual behavior is a sin. Dropping this 1978 document to the floor, he said, “As Martin Luther received and burned the Papal Bull, excommunicating him, we reject this document as being outside the grace of God.”

Reformation Sunday 2002 extended an unprecedented show of welcome to GLBT clergy, elders and deacons within the Presbyterian Church (USA). The event was an expression of the growing unity, support, pride and love shared between GLBT Christians and allies working together for an inclusive Presbyterian Church. As congregants fellowshiped after the service, letters of support and postcards asking for support were circulated and signed. ✨

## National Connections

### *That All May Freely Serve National Board Meeting (in conjunction with the National Board meeting of More Light Presbyterians)*

**February 22-24, Santa Fe, New Mexico**

Presbyterian Welcome representatives David Cockcroft, Cliff Frasier and Margaret Scott attended a leadership meeting in Santa Fe NM for leaders from the different regions affiliated with That All May Freely Serve. Concurrently, the national board of More Light Presbyterians met. Reports were given about work in the different regions, and a new guiding document of “Strategic Affirmations” was written for That All May Freely Serve – National.

### *That All May Freely Serve National Leadership Conference* **April 4-7, Stony Point, NY**

For many in Presbyterian Welcome and for many seminarians in particular, participation in the Spring national conference of That All May Freely Serve was a highpoint. A number of Steering Committee members were key planners: Yvonne Armstrong, Liz Alexander, Cathy Blaser, Nancy Neal, and Chris Shelton. Workshops were led by Liz Alexander, Bob Brashear, David Cockcroft, Cliff Frasier, Chris Shelton, and John Rhodes. Many New Yorkers added to the worship services, including Brian Cave, Patrick Evans, Chris Shelton, Jenna Tiitsman and Mieke Vandersall. Other leaders attended and participated: Amye Cole, Arthur Fullerton, Rev. Ruth Garwood, Holly and Jim Nedelka, Gary Ireland, Chibueze Okorie, Rev. Janet Parker, Cheryl Pynch,

Margaret Scott, Rev. Byron Shafer, and Rev. Mary Speers. Finally, New York artist and performer Alicia Mathewson awed the conference participants with a full-length performance of Love According To Luc, the new musical about a seminarian who struggles between her process of coming out as a lesbian and her process of discernment regarding ordained ministry.

### *The More Light Conference*

**May 24-26, Raleigh, North Carolina**

Cliff Frasier co-led a workshop on the subject of General Assembly logistics. Other New Yorkers attending were Rev. David Cockcroft and Brian Cave.

### *The “3-Sisters” Staff Retreat*

**August 19-21, Denver, CO**

Cliff Frasier led a discussion on budgets and regional fundraising during a planning retreat that involved staff from More Light Presbyterians, That All May Freely Serve, and The Shower of Stoles.

### *Covenant Network Conference*

**November 7-9, Minneapolis, MN**

Advisory Board member Doug Nave led a number of workshops entitled “Interpreting Our Constitution Faithfully” which explained the Covenant Network legal strategy, and Cliff Frasier co-led a workshop entitled “The Bible and Homosexuality”. Other New Yorkers included Katie Givens, Ellen Larson, Margaret Scott, Mieke Vandersall, Jon Walton, and Barbara Wheeler. \*

## Advisory Board

The Rev. Fred Davie

The Rev. Lisa Hill

Douglas Nave, Esq.

Dr. John Rhodes

The Rev. Letty Russell

Dr. Jim Uleman

Mieke Vandersall

Barbara Wheeler

## Steering Committee Meetings

**January 23**

First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

**March 3**

First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York

**April 18**

The Brick Presbyterian Church

**May 19**

Rutgers Presbyterian Church

**June 27**

Central Presbyterian Church

**September 18**

Fifth Avenue Presbyterian Church

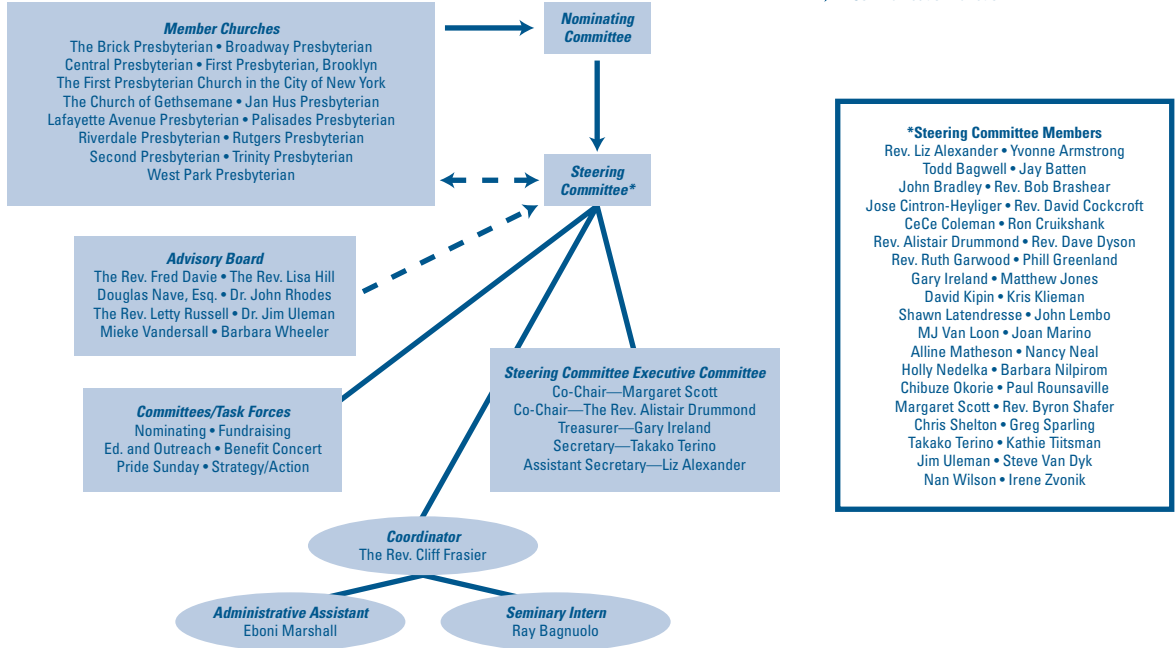
**October 21**

Broadway Presbyterian Church

**December 8**

Jan Hus Presbyterian Church

## Presbyterian Welcome Organizational Chart



## Fundraising and Development

Thanks to the hard work and creativity of so many, in the year 2002 we successfully raised our budget and lived within our means. Our funds were primarily raised from three vitally important sources: sponsoring churches (20%), individual members (36%) and grants (33%). Other funds were raised at our Benefit Concert, from collections at other events, and from speaking engagements. We were also blessed to have a modest roll-over amount from the previous year's budget.

The 14 sponsoring sessions of Presbyterian Welcome and committed individuals were key in reaching and surpassing our budget goals. Increased commitment from individual giving allowed for Presbyterian Welcome to grow and remain on sound financial footing. In 2002, several new small grants were found.

In the year 2002, several cocktail parties helped to raise funds and to say Thank You to major donors. In January, Ron Cruikshank and Kim Rendleman hosted such a reception and fundraiser in Ron's beautiful east-side home. In October, Todd Bagwell threw a party for major donors in the Ulla-Maija reception hall overlooking Bryant Park. Our second annual Benefit Concert (see "Events") energized our mission and commitment, and has inspired plans for the future.

In 2002, development was connected to intentional planning of Presbyterian Welcome's mission. On April 27th, at Union Theological Seminary, 12 planners from Presbyterian Welcome gathered for an all-day Long Range Planning Retreat to ensure that our mission is guided by goals and objectives for 2002 and beyond. \*



Clockwise: Janet Parker, Cliff Frasier, Janie Spahr, and Ruth Garwood.



Katherine Higgins and Quinn Caldwell.



Kris Kleiman and Alline Matheson.



Mary Speers and Ruth Garwood.

### 2002 Financial Report

<u>Income</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Benefit Concert	3000	2,375.00	Coordinator	59,503	58,702.85
Events	—	3,218.00	Administrator	10,000	8,684.50
Grants	35,000	40,400.00	Seminarian	4000	3,262.50
Major Donors	36,000	32,519.72	Phone/Internet	3000	2,709.13
Individuals		11,285.00	Postage	5000	4,476.57
In Kind	—	9,948.55	Printing	8000	5,051.11
Member Churches	25,000	16,389.00	Supplies	2500	3,706.17
Misc. Income	3000	1645.13	Misc.	1500	791.29
Rollover from 2001		3,796.52	Food	300	1,996.82
<b>Total</b>		<b>121,576.92</b>	Transportation	3000	2,893.42
			Discretionary	1500	7.00
			Financial Services	2500	1903.53
			Conferences	4500	5,003.86
			Advertising	400	415.75
			Special Events	—	1,345.55
			In Kind	—	9,948.55
			<b>Total</b>		<b>110,898.60</b>
			<b>Surplus</b>		<b>10,678.32</b>

### The Importance of Your Support

A growing number of Presbyterians and friends with a vision and desire for a Presbyterian Church that welcomes and honors ALL of its members have expressed their support of Presbyterian Welcome through their participation and helping to fund our various programs. Your individual participation and financial support is vital for the success of our mission. A substantial amount of our budget comes from individuals just like you. You are critical for our success. Won't you please join us today with your support of our mission?

***Please complete this form and send your tax-deductible contribution to:***  
**Presbyterian Welcome • 2095 Broadway, Suite 306 • New York, NY 10023**

Yes, I want to help create an inclusive and welcoming Church through the mission of Presbyterian Welcome. Enclosed is my check for:

- \$500 or more Major Donor  
 \$100 Benefactor  
 \$35 Supporter  
 Other

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Affiliation (optional)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

### *Vision of Presbyterian Welcome*

As followers of Christ, convinced by Scripture, we envision a world as inclusive as God's grace and a Church where God's gifts of ordained ministry are recognized in persons regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity.

### *Mission of Presbyterian Welcome*

As a network of Presbyterian churches and individuals in the New York metropolitan area, our mission is to clear the way in the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for the ordination of ministers, elders and deacons without regard to sexual orientation or gender identity by:

- educating for deeper understanding and change in ourselves and others;
- advocating for reform of the Church constitution;
- expanding our membership and developing leadership in local congregations;
- supporting Presbyterians who are in the ordination process or are facing ecclesiastical charges;
- and collaborating with like-minded organizations to accomplish these goals.

### *Our History*

Presbyterian Welcome developed from a group of Presbyterians that came together in New York City in 1996 to promote justice and inclusivity in and beyond our denomination.

### *Our Members*

Our members include hundreds of clergy, elders, deacons and Presbyterian Church members across the presbytery of New York City with affiliate members from neighboring presbyteries of Long Island, Hudson River, New Brunswick, Southern New England, Newark, Palisades, Elizabeth and beyond.

### *14 Supporting Churches*

The Brick Presbyterian  
 Broadway Presbyterian  
 Central Presbyterian  
 First Presbyterian, Brooklyn  
 The First Presbyterian Church in the City of New York  
 The Church of Gethsemane  
 Jan Hus Presbyterian  
 Lafayette Avenue Presbyterian  
 Palisades Presbyterian  
 Riverdale Presbyterian  
 Rutgers Presbyterian  
 Second Presbyterian  
 Trinity Presbyterian  
 West Park Presbyterian



*Pictured from left: Quinn Caldwell, Brian Cave, Chris Shelton, and Bob Brashear*

Presbyterian Welcome

Presbyterian Welcome

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