

“The Presbytery, The Presbytery”
What or Who Is the Presbytery?

The Presbytery is “us” - that is to say a congregation is one of the 60 congregations and 1 New Church Development (emerging congregation) that comprise The Presbytery of Long Island (Nassau and Suffolk Counties).

The “us” is - the pastor of a congregation, as Minister of Word and Sacrament, is a minister member of the Presbytery, wherein he or she has voting privileges/responsibilities, as does an ordained Elder, elected by the Session, from a congregation at Presbytery meetings.

The “us” is - also – the pastor, elders and members of a congregation serving in elected or appointed positions of leadership in our Presbytery. That service includes the Committees required by the *Book of Order* PC(USA) and the entities of our particular Presbytery.

And - the “us” is - all of us serving as disciples in the witness and ministry of Jesus Christ, through the Presbytery. It may be working to aid abused women on LI, or traveling to Cuba to encourage our brothers and sisters in faith there.

The witness of our Presbytery includes working to eliminate hunger and racial prejudice, furthering evangelism on LI or in El Salvador, and empowering members and pastors in their ministries. The Presbytery provides pastoral care to our churches and pastors; it is in covenant with those preparing to become pastors; and it helps to coordinate the ministries of our congregations, while organizing new ones.

Our Presbytery offers opportunities for continuing education and spiritual retreat (lay and clergy), wide-ranging resources (including a preeminent resource center), and counsel regarding polity, governance and transitions in pastoral leadership.

Officially defined a Presbytery is “a corporate expression of the church consisting of all the churches and ministers of the Word and Sacrament within a certain district.” (*Book of Order* G-11.0100) They are Middle Governing Bodies. In terms of structure, there is the local congregation, The Presbytery, The Synod of the Northeast (a regional area – NY, NJ, CT, MA, VT, NH and ME), and The General Assembly (national). Our denominational structure is “connectional” – that is to say united.

A Presbytery really is far more than an official definition - it is a connected community of congregations, pastors, elders, deacons and church members living the witness of Jesus Christ to world. Indeed – the Presbytery is “us.”