



### **Update on Presbyterian Youth Triennium, July 16-23, 2016, Purdue University, Indiana**

Thanks to God for the wonderful delegation from Hempstead, Setauket, Garden City, Smithtown, and Southhold! We were youth participants, adult advisors and a college aged youth worker. We were a diverse group of leaders that trained for 6 months in team building, recognizing mission and purpose, overcoming obstacles, and the scriptures for the theme: “Go!”

Isoken Irowa (Hempstead) and Stuart Campbell (Setauket) served as adult advisors. Sosa Irowa (Hempstead) returned to Triennium to serve as a youth worker. The group was commissioned by Moderator Barbara Messier at Community Presbyterian Church of Malverne who hosted for the overnight “lockin”. Rev. Scott Williams prayed for our travel blessings before our 4 AM pickup (gulp) to JFK. Deacon Bob Caputo supported our meetings with food, music, and help all the way to the airport gate.

The focus this year was on mission - “Go” and do what you are called to do. We explored opportunities to engage in local and global ministries and see if it sparked a passion for the future.

I saw kids make shoes out of jeans for people of Uganda; I was under the stars at a “glowstick praise party” with thousands of young hearts. I helped a girl carry her wheel chair up a flight of stairs, since nothing was stopping her from being with us that week. I cried for kids meditating in the prayer center - “coffee with Jesus” - about sexual identity, depression, racism, and the quiet questions in their hearts. I heard a choir of 200 kids sing like angels to a hushed congregation of their peers from all over the world. I saw the kingdom of heaven peak through.

Our advisory team felt honored, blessed and grateful that all went so very well. One recommendation for 2019 is to expose our delegation in advance to more charismatic and contemporary services around the area, in and beyond our denomination, where hands are high, the music is bold and so is Spirit. For many of them it was mind blowing to witness our “church on the Go”.

Thanks to Mark, Lorna, Charlaina and our Presbytery to make all possible. To God be all the glory.

Peace

Reverend Janice Moore-Caputo