

HINTON RURAL LIFE CENTER

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Dear Colleagues in Christ,

Greetings from the mountains of Western North Carolina! First Parish Project, offered through the Lily Endowment, the Fund for Theological Education, and Hinton Rural Life Center, is entering its seventh season. The group that will begin this September still has open spots for your beginning pastors. To be eligible, a clergy person must be age 35 or younger, serving their first solo appointment, and that appointment should be to a church of small membership (defined as under 250 worshipping attendance). That should mean there are several eligible candidates in your district.

Please help us get the word out to pastors who might be interested in the opportunity to develop a nationwide, ecumenical support network, receive educational opportunities related to being a new pastor, and gather for worship and covenant groups six times over the course of 18 to 22 months. All travel is paid for through the endowment. Although travel expenses for spouses and children are not covered, families are welcome to join participants for the weeks and be guests of Hinton Center at no cost for food and lodging. I have attached a brochure that briefly describes First Parish Project for you to share with interested parties. Please put persons in contact with me as soon as possible so there will be time to look at application materials, extend invitations and arrange travel. Another option would be to provide me with names and contact information for eligible pastors and I will happily make first contact. I thank you in advance for recommending the program to your pastors. May God's grace be with you in your ministry!

Peace,

Rev. Clarissa Youngblood Fuentes
Rural Life Chaplain
Director of First Parish Project

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