



October 8, 2025

Friends in Christ,

The Rev. Deborah Fae Swift is currently a retired member in good standing of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. She has been associated with the presbytery since 1990 and has labored in a variety of positions including current active service on the Shepherding Working Group. Additionally, she serves the larger church as part of the Synod of the Northeast's Coaching Network.

Rev. Swift primary position is executive director of Firebird Spirit, a 501(c)3 non-profit corporation under the laws of New York. Since 2014, Firebird Spirit has worked with congregations and mid councils to develop new options for ministry beyond the traditional congregational model.

Firebird Spirit's ministry has a global reach through their YouTube Channel (@firebirdspiritHOPE). They also maintain a physical footprint in Rochester, New York, and operate within the bounds of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley.

Blessings,

John Odom, D. Min.
Executive Presbyter

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JOHN ODOM
*Executive
Presbyter*

BETHANY BENZ-WHITTINGTON
*Stated
Clerk*

CHERYL BATTAGLIA
*Operations
Manager*

KELLY SABETTA
*Communications
Coordinator*

MICHELLE ALLEN
*Pastor of Leader Care
& Development*

Amy Williams Fowler

October 10, 2025

To Whom it May Concern:

I have known the Reverend Deborah Fae Swift since 2011 when I began my time of service as Presbytery Leader of the Presbytery of Genesee Valley. To my knowledge she has been a faithful Presbytery member since that time, including leadership of the Pastoral Care Committee and membership in the Personnel Committee. She now serves on the Synod of the Northeast's Coaching Network.

While pastoring an innovative church community, she created (with other inspired people) Firebird Spirit, Inc. — a non-profit organization rooted firmly in our Reformed heritage and powered by the Spirit's leading. I was a part of the Board of Directors during its formation. Since my retirement from active ministry, I now serve on the Advisory Council with other church and non-church volunteers.

I find the work that Firebird Spirit is doing to be deeply interesting, faithful, and invigorating, and highly commend the quality of their offerings for your review and consideration.

In Christ,

The Rev. Amy Williams Fowler, Honorably Retired
Presbytery of Boston

71 Stone Ridge Rd | Franklin, MA 02038



INTERIM UNIFIED AGENCY

October 7, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I have known the Reverend Deborah Fae Swift for over a decade and have supported her creative ministries throughout that time. I have been impressed with and encouraged by her commitment to the gospel and her engagement with change management in the midst of rapid cultural and church transitions. With the formation of Firebird Spirit as an outreach program of her congregation in 2014, followed by its incorporation as a 501(c)(3) non-profit in 2018, her work has continued to be a valuable resource that I recommend for churches seeking to grow in new directions.

With the launch of Firebird Worship in 2024, Firebird Spirit has developed both a national and international movement as they work to create a global Community of Hope. Their worship bears witness to a gospel ministry of justice, hope, and inclusion. I have had the privilege of contributing to these worship services.

I personally support the mission and work of Firebird Spirit, and their inclusive ministry of hope, which is firmly rooted in the Reformed Tradition. We are truly better together, and my friend, Deb, understands this essential, life-giving ministry connection.

Grace,

Ray G. Jones III

Interim Unified Agency

Director, Theology, Formation and Evangelism