

*As always, ministry in the Presbytery has been filled with the sense that God is with us in the journey we are taking together. It has been a relatively short time since our November Stated Meeting, and the holidays in-between. Some highlights of areas I have been engaged in during that time:*

### **Valley Presbyterian Church**

I have been supporting the Administrative Commission (AC) in their work, the congregation and the COM. It has been a team process and I am very grateful for those who have come alongside to serve in many capacities. Let us continue to hold the AC, the congregation and those who are working with it in our prayers.

### **Woodbury Union Church (Warwick, RI)**

As many of you know, the Woodbury Church suffered a devastating fire the night before Thanksgiving. I have been supporting this congregation in resourcing for the long-term recovery that is before them. Presbyterian Disaster Assistance has sent a team and will be accompanying the congregation and our Presbytery as we rebuild. Many of you have reached out with tangible gifts of support - thank you. Let us continue to hold this congregation in our prayers during this time of grief and looking to their future.

### **Committee on Ministry**

We have been in a season of learning and growth. At our December meeting we spent most of our time learning about updates to the call process in the larger denomination. As we begin 2019, we are looking forward to connections with the Pneumatrix learning process, time with the Presbyterian Foundation, learning about changes to interim ministry and deepening our skill levels around accompanying congregations in their ministry. We continue to wrestle with issues surrounding benefits and compensation within the Presbytery, a conversation we expect to be multi-year. COM leadership will be offering an Open Space at this Presbytery meeting to continue that conversation.

### **Nominating**

As we heard at our November meeting, there is a deep need in the Presbytery to continue to look at the nominating process and how we expand and open it up to new voices within the Presbytery. This is the nominating "season" in PSNE and so

one of my key tasks in this time will be to support the Nominating Committee in its important work on behalf of the Presbytery.

### **Search for a new Presbytery Treasurer**

We are looking to nominate a new Treasurer for the Presbytery at our May Annual Meeting. This position description will have slightly expanded responsibilities and deeper integration with the virtual office of the Presbytery. If you have interest in this position and would like to have a conversation about it, or names to suggest, please let myself or the Nominating Committee know.

### **Crossroads Training**

During the first week of March members of the Roundtable, COM, CPM and Mission/Vision team will gather at Stony Point Center for 2 full days of training with the Rev. Jessica Vasquez-Torres from Crossroads. You have begun hearing some of the voices of members of the Presbytery in *Getting Connected* who have already been part of one of these trainings. The goals of the retreat are to create shared language, definitions, and competencies among key areas of leadership in the Presbytery that most closely relate to on-the-ground ministries that we share. Our next steps after the retreat will be to create greater integration of this holy work throughout the Presbytery. The Mission/Vision Team will be leading an Open Space at this Presbytery meeting around these conversations. Stay tuned!

### **Grants**

The Presbytery is currently receiving two grants to support specific areas of ministry support. Through a Transformation Grant from the PCUSA we are supporting the work of Pneumatrix, which is working with the following congregations in our Presbytery on adaptive change and 21st century ministry: Wilton, First Hartford, Groton, MLK and the COM. We also have a grant from the Synod of the Northeast that is supporting the revitalization work at the MLK Church, and the leadership of the Rev. Terrlyn Curry-Avery.

*As we turn the page into a New Year together, much is going on in the life of PSNE. I am grateful to each of you and for the ministries that you support and are part of!*

Blessings,

