

Annual Report of the Moderator
May 8, 2019

This has been a year of transition and “becoming” in our Presbytery. I have perceived meetings to be generally civil, but there is also a frequently present sense that we are learning and trying to do things differently, which results in some degree of anxiety. “The Rules” (Roberts, BOO) anchor and stabilize us, but I get the sense that we are beginning to relax, to actively challenge some of the way things have always been, and to examine more carefully the policies and procedures we have always used. This creates ripples of discomfort amongst some of our number, and inertia sometimes (often? usually?) brings us back, but I definitely have the sense that there is a striving, a longing, to do and be more as a body. Doubtless we move too quickly (or dramatically) for some, and too slowly (or weakly) for others. I find it encouraging, in either case, that we seem to be in a place as a Presbytery where we can actively work on our evolution, with less distraction from some of the issues of the past.

In worship, we attempted to explore giving voice to those of us in our communities who may not be heard as often or as loudly as they should. I, personally, appreciated the willingness of the Worship Team to consider a wide variety of worship styles, and the considerable planning and effort that went into every service; even if things didn’t always work out exactly as we envisioned in practice, there was always faithful intent and spiritual integrity behind every service, and I am deeply grateful to my collaborators on the worship team for their help and commitment.

Finally, a highlight of the year for me was the Presbytery leadership’s participation in an Anti-Racism Workshop led by Crossroads at Stony Point Center. This was a powerfully moving experience, and I hope and pray that it engenders continued, serious, expanded exploration of issues of race in our Presbytery, and by extension our communities.

Thank you to the Presbytery for the opportunity to lead you (however clumsily at times), for your grace in forgiving errors, and for your support in offering feedback and guidance at meetings throughout the year.

In Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher Tate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "C" and "T".

Christopher Tate