

Annual Report of the Moderator
May 16, 2020

Greetings Faithful Colleagues and Friends,

This year has been filled with a wide range of activities, initiatives, changes and wild challenges. **Presbytery via Zoom** is a new world. While we miss physically worshipping, fellowshiping and doing business as a body in one place, we have quickly adjusted to following our Lord and Savior into new rhythms of ministry, reconciliation and outreach.

Our theme for the year was **The Lord's Prayer**. Each time of worship at Presbytery meetings held one portion of the prayer in front of us. We prayed, sang and considered the ways we as a Presbytery are joining with God in bringing Kingdom Come to reality here on earth.

Anti-racism work continues to be a major focus for our Presbytery. Trainings, materials and opportunities to reflect, confess and move forward with concrete action are regularly before us. Our **Brazilian Church Fellowship** in Hyannis on Cape Cod is doing deeply meaningful work, as is our **Presbyterian Immigrant Ministry**.

Job descriptions have been re-written to reflect our mission and priorities. We now have a wonderful **Communications Manager**, Erika Plank Hagan, who is leading us in renewed discussions regarding both internal and external communication. Our Stated Clerk valiantly led us through a thorough **by-laws review** and update, moving us into alignment between Robert's Rules and the ways in which we live and move and have our being as a Presbytery.

We give thanks that the **re-building** of Woodbury Union Church in Warwick, RI after a devastating fire is close to completion; and that we now have a **President of the Corporation** of PSNE.

Our **IC and PJC** spent the winter and spring doing demanding work, bringing it to thoughtful completion at our Special Meeting of the Presbytery on April 21, 2020. Our admiration is due to all who prayerfully handled these challenging procedures with grace and care.

Working with the Revs. Shannan Vance-Ocampo and David Baer has been a delight. These **Christ-filled servants** are hard at work keeping us focused and moving forward into the new means by which we are doing church in light of COVID-19. Our Presbytery is in very capable hands with the Installation of **Elder Stephen Hart** as your new Moderator.

Much has been accomplished. Yet the exciting and holy work of **following Jesus Christ** in 2020 and beyond remains. Together, guided by the **creativity of the Holy Spirit**, we will step boldly and confidently into a very new reality. In another year, what wonders will God have wrought?

I am grateful and humbled for the opportunity to have served as your Moderator this past year. May the year ahead find us passionately involved in creating vibrant new traditions as together we pursue justice and peace in **God's kingdom of love** for all creation.

On the journey together,



The Rev. Dr. Ruth Herron Smalt