

General Presbytery
November 2021 Report to the Presbytery
Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo

Welcome everyone to our last Presbytery meeting for 2021. I want to thank everyone for their perseverance this year and commitment to the life of the Presbytery and our many ministries that are present in the lives of our congregations, new worshipping communities and immigrant fellowship fellowship. Thank you to everyone who has served this year in leadership in the Presbytery, in our larger Synod and at the national church level. Thank you as well to our many clergy engaged in specialized ministries throughout the Presbytery, the larger denomination and even internationally. We also give thanks for our retired pastors and for the gifts they have given and continue to give to our shared ministry. Together we are the expression of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) which has been gathered together in this Presbytery, and for the living out of the Gospel in so many diverse ways in so many different spaces. As we round out 2021, which has been another year of challenge, opportunity and disruptive change - I remain in awe of the work you do, the ways you do it, and the love and commitment you give to it. As we move into the seasons of Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and then the New Year, may you find peace and opportunities for rest, renewal and recommitment!

PRESBYTERY PODCAST

A big thank you to Erika Plank Hagan, our communications manager for her ongoing and dedicated work with us. We have launched a Presbytery podcast, which you can get on your computer or smartphone, however you access podcasts. You can also follow it on the main podcast page, found at [this link](#). If you'd like to be a part of the podcast or have an idea for it, let Erika know, we are just getting started, and some great new episodes are on their way!

CLERGY EXHAUSTION AND COVID-19

The Personnel Committee of the Presbytery has sent a note out to all congregations about the growing concerns nationally and locally about clergy burnout due to the ongoing effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. This correspondence was sent to all Moderators and Clerks of Session. Please be sure to share it with your Personnel Committee and reach out if there are ways we can

assist you and help care for those who lead us in ministry during this time that is both full of challenge and full of opportunity. You will also find in the meeting papers for this meeting, information from Presbyterian Research Services on data that was collected during an extensive denomination-wide study of clergy just before the Covid-19 pandemic hit.

THINGS ON MY MIND TO SHARE WITH YOU

As we close out the year, I'd like to share a two resources (podcast episodes) that have meant a great deal to me and opened up my spirit about what God is up to in the world today:

A Church in the Wilderness, podcast [episode](#) from October 4, 2021, Food and Faith Podcast with the Rev. Victoria Looz. I found the theological ideas in this podcast episode to be incredibly expansive, especially the conversation on the pandemic we continue to live through and what it means for our present and our future.

Interview with biblical scholar the Rev. Dr. Wil Gafney, podcast [episode](#) from October 13, 2021, Madang Podcast hosted by the Rev. Dr. Grace Ji-Sun Kim. Dr. Gafney's new lectionary resource, A Women's Lectionary for the Whole Church is out with Years A and W and this is a first dive into the what and the why behind this new lectionary resource and how you can begin to use it in your context.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Shannan".

Rev. Shannan Vance-Ocampo