October 15, 2024

Dear Members and Friends in PSNE,

As you know, I have a sabbatical coming up, and this note is to let you know what is happening in PSNE while I am taking a rest from ministry.

First of all, thank you. Thank you for the gift of this time away and thank you for having the foresight as a Presbytery, long before I got here to serve as your General Presbyter - for having a sabbatical policy and a commitment to this important biblical practice which has sustained people of faith for many, many generations! I have served in ministry since my ordination in 2001, you are my fourth call, but the first with a policy, and so the first time I have been able to have a sabbatical. Thank you! I am so deeply grateful.

My last day in the office will be Thursday November 14, 2024 and I will be back on February 27, 2025. During my time away I will be spending the bulk of my time in my husband's home country of Colombia with family and friends and working remotely with a writing coach on two projects that have been on my heart.

While I am away, my colleague, the Rev. David Bennett, will be filling in as the Sabbatical Presbyter. I know you will all enjoy getting to know him! His info and what he'll be doing with the Presbytery is in the Presbytery packet. I have met ahead of the sabbatical with all leadership and staff in the Presbytery and worked out their needs that I have been prepping for this fall, organizing things to hand over to David, and coordinating with the Personnel Committee. Kate and I will be taking a prep retreat day in person with David the last week of October. We are so blessed by faithful teams of volunteers and staff in the Presbytery!

I will not be here to say it - so in advance I hope you have a meaningful and spirit-filled Thanksgiving, Advent, Christmas and Epiphany Seasons and a very happy and blessed beginning to the New Year!

Peace, Joy, and Blessings,

Shannan

Rev. Dr. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter