

As the time for this meeting of the Presbytery is tight with two excellent speakers coming to lead us, my report is in writing for this meeting as my time for the docket is needed elsewhere.

I'd like to share with the Presbytery some information items about (1) collaborations going on in our midst, (2) information about the General Assembly meetings this summer, and (3) some words of thanksgiving:

Information about Collaborations

There are a few areas of exciting collaborations emerging for us:

- The Presbytery Trustees have opened up some extra funds for the work of our COM. This has allowed for some incredible work and collaborations of the COM in ministries throughout the Presbytery. In addition to that work, through those funds, and alongside gifts from an outside donor, we are offering some Clergy Wellness initiatives this year that will be focused on gathering together for mutual support via table fellowship, art, and time in Creation. We will have another clergy retreat November 12-14, 2026 and I am excited to share that [Rachel White](#) will be returning as our artist-in-residence alongside award-winning Irish poet [Pádraig Ó Tuama](#). Pádraig is starting at Yale Divinity School this fall on faculty, and I hope this can be the first of many opportunities for PSNE to collaborate with him. Stay tuned for information and registration in your inbox! Thank you to our Trustees!
- The staff of the three New England presbyteries have been meeting together regularly this year and are preparing ways for our three presbyteries to come together this fall and early next year in conversations around shared opportunities for leadership. This will happen at the “Council” level, so for us, the Roundtable. Other opportunities will continue to emerge. Our three CPM’s are beginning a conversation about ways to share their ministry of the accompaniment of seminarians and commissioned ruling elders (CRE), and we are combining the process of preparing and supporting CRE’s between the three presbyteries. We will also continue to cross-invite each other to events and training when appropriate and applicable. I attended the Korean ministry symposium in Boston Presbytery last month and it was a rich time of learning, collaboration and community. Our Synod is now providing grants for collaboration and we will be applying for some together as the Tri-Presbytery group this year. Stay tuned for more information!
- I attended a gathering at Columbia Theological Seminary in late February for Presbytery and Synod leaders from around the PCUSA. Columbia is considering ways to leverage their resources in service to the larger denomination in creative ways. I think some good collaborations will come out of this, and I am excited to see what emerges next from these conversations. I will have more to share in the fall about this!

227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A)

The [General Assembly of the PCUSA](#) meets this summer, the theme is *Persuading Towards Wholeness* and the scripture passage is from Revelation, 22 - *the leaves of the trees are for the healing of the nations*. The Assembly will be held in two parts, a virtual “week” of committee meetings June 22-24, a few days for travel, and then in-person meetings in Milwaukee, WI June 27-July 2. You can follow along for Assembly news via the PCUSA social media handles, and by subscribing to the GA “On the Road” newsletter at this [link](#). We will also post information on our social media handles about our commissioners and their work. During the in-person days in Milwaukee, we will gather our commissioners together with the two other Presbyteries in New England for a shared meal, and also attend our Synod of the Northeast luncheon together.

The national office of our denomination and its ministry is going through a season of incredible change and transition with the unification process which will be completed at this GA between the former Office of the General Assembly and the former Presbyterian Mission Agency. They are now combined into the new agency, [Presbyterian Life and Witness](#). I expect that we will learn more about this new agency at the General Assembly and have quite a bit of information to bring back to you. Please hold the Assembly, its work and discernment, and our commissioners, Rev. Kevin White, Elder Rachelle Lee, and YAD Ella Kimberly, alongside Kate and I as support staff, in your prayers as we work and serve together this summer. Our commissioners will be commissioned at our virtual Presbytery meeting in June. Stay tuned for that info!

Thanksgiving

I want to offer words of thanksgiving to all of those who are going “off” committees and teams of the Presbytery at this meeting and to those who are joining or renewing their service. It is harder and harder each year to engage the many volunteers who serve our Presbytery, because as we all know, everyone is under incredible amounts of stress and loss of time. This is a challenge all volunteer-supported organizations are having during this time of massive cultural shifts and upheaval. I do not take the service that those who can offer it to the Presbytery lightly and I want to say that I always love working with you, I learn from each of you, and I am enriched deeply by our friendships and sharing of life and ministry together. The gift of time, talent, energy, imagination and love you offer to this Presbytery and its shared ministry to the region we have been assigned to steward is an immeasurable gift. Thank you for all that you do and for all that you are!

Finally, as we turn towards the summer months that offer opportunities for rest and renewal, please know I am holding you in my prayers. This really is a time of incredible and heartbreaking challenges that we are living through. I know so many of your hearts are broken into pieces so much of the time, my heart has been too. This is also a time where something new is being birthed, hard as it is to see. The question is, where will we be, and how will we lead? What faithful witness will we offer? Our most important task this time is deep prayerful and community-shared attentiveness to the Gospel. Fidelity to the Way of Jesus is our guidepost for this time. I remain deeply grateful to be alongside this Presbytery and each of you who continue to offer bravery, clarity, and conviction of witness for the time we are in. Please keep me in your prayers too.

Peace,



Rev. Dr. Shannan Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter