

Jeff's Jottings

A Bit More Than a "Jotting"...

March 9, 2018

By Jeff Japinga
Executive Presbyter

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area meets tomorrow in regular session. We begin at 9 a.m. at Valley Community Presbyterian Church in Golden Valley. Following the usual organizational steps that take about 10 minutes, we will enter into a time of worship. John McCall, a Presbyterian mission co-worker in Taiwan, will preach; we will celebrate the sacrament of the Lord's Supper; and we will remember our congregational leaders who have died in the past year. You are all welcome to join the Presbytery in worship; please come if you are able.

Later in the morning, I will give my report as your executive presbyter. You can read it right now, if you wish, through the link in EMerge. Let's just say it's a little longer than a "jotting." It may go far more into the detail of Presbytery life and function than you want, and that's okay.

But I hope it illustrates both some ongoing work of your Presbytery and a key question we face as a Presbytery: in this changing, challenging world of ours, how will we be a church "governed by presbyters, gathered in councils, seek[ing] to represent the will of Christ, with shared power exercised jointly"? Those aren't my words; they belong to the "Book of Order." So do these: that this common work is to "provide that the Word of God may be truly preached and heard; provide that the sacraments may be rightly administered and received; and nurture the covenant community of disciples of Christ."

Those are big goals and broad targets. And in this day and age, how we reach for those goals can no longer look like it did 10 or 20 or 50 years ago — just like our churches don't look like they did 10 and 20 and 50 years ago. So what does the work of the Presbytery look like? That's where my report seeks to

point us — so that we can be the church we are called to be, in such a time as this.