

"Hello!" from Peter Surgenor, Temporary General Presbyter.

Council called me to this service in the time between our Interim General Presbyter and the report of the General Presbyter Search Committee bringing a candidate to be our next General Presbyter. Gavin Meek finished his work with us earlier this month and is beginning service as the Transitional General Presbyter this week in New Harmony Presbytery. **We wish Gavin and Jen Thank You and Godspeed!**

I hope that you are all taking advantage of time away as well as alternate times for worship this summer. The lectionary passages recently have mentioned times when Jesus was overwhelmed by crowds and tried to find time to catch up and find perspective both alone and with his disciples. May your summer be filled with these moments.

There are some highlights from the General Assembly (June in St Louis, MO) that we should note:

- The Presbyterian Peace Fellowship walked from Louisville to St Louis to highlight the need for more action toward fossil fuel freedom.
- Cindy Kohlman, Resource Presbyter for two Presbyteries in the Synod of the Northeast was elected CoModerator along with Vilmarie Contron-Oliveri from Florida.
- Chip Andrus, South Salem Presbyterian Church led the Assembly music program which added great flavor, inspiration and calm to the Assembly Plenaries.
- An overture from the Nauraushaun Presbyterian Church emerged from committee modified but still powerful and the Assembly affirmed the following declaration:

#### For Such A Time As This: A Proclamation of Kingdom Values

As Confessing Christians,

We trust God, whom we know through Jesus Christ, in whose name we pray as others pray in other names.

We are obligated to declare our concerns about the direction towards autocracy that our country is taking.

We say Yes to God's power of love and justice for the neighbor as well as the self, and we say No to demonic power that urges hate of the other, scatters blame, and creates civic discord.

We say Yes to our imperfect democracy with one person, one vote, and No to any corruption of our elections.

We say Yes to universal health care and No to care based on the ability to pay.

We say Yes to safe schools, houses of worship, and public gathering places; and No to civilian access to assault and/or military-style weapons.

We say Yes to core human values and No to dividing our humanity by ideology and partisanship.

We say Yes to bridges and preservation of families and No to walls.

We say Yes to affirming and celebrating the full spectra of human identity and No to discrimination and bigotry.

We say: "In life, and in death we belong to God."