

## **FROM YOUR INTERIM GENERAL PRESBYTER**

You may be interested to know that the four officer training events I held over the past few months were well received. There were 194 officers who attended from 28 congregations; about one fourth of those officers were newly ordained and installed. I want to thank our gracious hosts who provided a nice space and scrumptious goodies: Holmes Camp and Conference Center and Goshen, Korean and Jeffersonville churches! Folks have asked if these training events will be repeated in the fall. That is a possibility if there's a need and desire.

One concern that was shared more than a few times concerned the training and orientation of church nominating committees, the committee tasked with presenting slates for deacons and/or ruling elders. In response to that, I will be presenting a Community Conversation at our next presbytery meeting, on May 23 at Goshen, on the work and discernment of a nominating committee for church officers. I will share a process of prayer and spiritual discernment that I have developed over time in working with church nominating committees; the foundational piece of that discernment process comes from the Quakers. I would encourage you to let this be known to your folks who serve on that committee, in particular the pastor and nominating committee moderator, so that together we can share best practices. If you have any questions, please contact me.

I will be gone Holy Week. If there's a pastoral emergency with a minister member of this presbytery, please contact Rev. Doug Phillips, a member of HRP and Chaplain at Westchester Medical Center: Office 914.493.1081 and Home 914.248.6061

Your Interim General Presbyter  
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