

Six Months: A Report To Presbytery's Council And To The Presbytery Of Wabash Valley

Called to serve as the Presbytery of Wabash Valley's Visioning and Connecting Leader, I began my work with you joyfully on August 1, 2016.

Since August 1st I have worshipped on Sunday mornings with 31 different congregations, attended twelve congregation's session meetings, hosted 21 coffee office hours in as many locations, participated in six local mission projects, enjoyed ten regional meetings of Wabash Valley Presbyterians who are interested in partnerships and collaborative ministry, coached visioning groups in two congregations as they seek a new direction, attended one Center for Congregations workshop and a South Bend Cubs game with 150 St. Joe County Presbyterians, not to mention dozens of lunches and cups of coffee and tea with folks who've wanted to share their stories and think with me about the future.

Since August 1st I've attended all of the meetings you would expect a presbytery leader to show up for: Council meetings (and a fall retreat at beautiful Geneva Center), Stewardship Ministry team meetings, Personnel Ministry team meetings; staff meetings, COM and CPM meetings, Leadership Team and Nominating Committee meetings; meetings with folks passionate about our renewed Commissioned Ruling Elder program and another vital group of folks with an emerging vision for leadership development for our eighty congregations; meetings with synod leaders and with presbytery leaders from throughout the Synod of Lincoln Trails; planning meetings for our experimental presbytery assembly + workshop in four sites—simultaneously-- on February 25; meetings with congregations in crisis and congregations busy celebrating; and assisting your presbytery search team begin its search for a new stated clerk.

Since August 1st I have jumped head first into learning about your visions and doing some vision casting myself. I have relished connecting with you and being intentional about connecting you with each other, leaders, sessions, congregations, ecumenical partners, cross-presbyteries, inter-synod and more.

The months to come hold much to anticipate: workshops and learning labs on technology in the local church, the care and feeding of leaders, nurturing and sustaining vital congregational leadership, deepening our spiritual practices, financial planning in early ministry and anticipating retirement and more, all in response to what you've shared are your priorities for your ministry in your particular setting. We're going to host two visits from one of the co-moderators of the 222nd General Assembly, the Reverend Jan Edmiston, who will lead a conversation with COM and CPM on April 6th and will address our presbytery assembly on May 23rd.

Thankful for the very great honor and joy to serve as your visioning and connecting leader as together we seek to continue

Serving Christ

Enhancing congregations

Connecting communities.

Peace,

Jennifer