

'Telling Our Stories' is focus of March Presbytery meeting

What story best describes your congregation's ministry? Not a bulletin, or a sermon, or an annual report, but a story. Maybe you know it, maybe you don't. If you do know a story, have you told it? To whom, and how, and when?

The March Presbytery meeting will invite us to consider "telling the stories essential to the church's life." The Rev. Rebecca Anderson will join us as guest presenter during the meeting and at an afternoon workshop following the meeting. Rebecca is co-pastor of a 2-year-old church plant in Chicago called Gilead. At Gilead, each service includes a couple of people telling crafted, true stories as part of the church's mission to "tell true stories that save lives." [Here's a story Rebecca herself has told.](#) And here's how she is thinking about her time with us:

As we take up "telling the stories essential to the church's life," how might we think about storytelling as a practice in worship and beyond. To expand our sense of what "counts" as a story to tell in church. To imagine how storytelling might, in our own communities, build community and deepen relationships and, yes, even save lives.

Saturday morning's plenary will introduce some ideas any congregation could put into practice right away — and invite you to think more deeply about some longer-term projects too. Stay for the afternoon's active and interactive workshop to strengthen your own skills of crafting and telling stories.

In addition, the PTCA's Cindy Ray will offer a post-presbytery workshop on the strategic design of a communications plan for your congregation. It's one thing to want to tell your story, to learn it, and to tell it. It's quite another to build a communications plan for your congregation that is both effective and efficient. In March, you'll have the opportunity to explore both. Look for more details in the weeks to come.

As a connectional church, the work we do together at Presbytery meetings is an important expression of this common commitment. Our five meetings this year are framing both time and content around the mission of the Presbytery

(“support congregations, equip leaders, towards God’s mission in the world”) and our overall theme for the year, “Nurturing thoughtful expressions of God’s mission in the world.”

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area will meet Saturday, March 16, beginning at 9 a.m., at the Korean Presbyterian Church of Minnesota in Brooklyn Park. Please join us.