

Jeff's Jottings

Tomorrow, tomorrow ...

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By Jeff Japinga
Executive Presbyter

Tomorrow ... there's a Presbytery meeting tomorrow. You can find [the full Presbytery packet](#) online on our website. Our commitment to all of you is that the full packet will always be available at least a week before the stated meeting, so that you can see in advance what we're doing. We were a couple of days off from that goal this time, and I apologize for that. But it's there now, and we hope you'll read it and join us.

Tomorrow's docket falls under these broad categories of work:

- **We gather for fellowship and worship.** At this meeting, we will actually close (rather than open) with worship, a sending that shapes us for our calling in the world
- **We support our congregations as the work of the Presbytery.** This year, the Presbytery Leadership Team has made a commitment to the theme, "Nurturing Thoughtful Expressions of God's Mission in the World," with each meeting focused on supporting and educating around a different form of that mission. Tomorrow, the Rev. Dr. Danielle Ayana James is speaking during Presbytery, and leading an in-depth workshop in the afternoon, helping us to think about how we broaden the indicators of success and impact in our ministries. We'll also hear about this year's Presbytery Mission Trip to North Carolina (following last year's presbytery-wide mission trip to Louisiana) — it's another remarkable opportunity, especially for those from congregations who might not have the people or financial resources to sponsor such trips.
- **We equip our leaders as the work of the Presbytery.** That means acting on the membership of the new pastor of the Korean Presbyterian Church in Minnesota; on a resolution from three of our sessions

concerning a bill before the Minnesota legislature; on electing an Administrative Commission to walk alongside one of our sessions in imaging a new future for a congregation. These are the things communities do with and for each other.

- **We address the vision and mission of our Presbytery, in order to support congregations and equip leaders.** Your officers and I have reports, including an important joint report of the Presbytery Leadership Team and myself.

Is this who you know your Presbytery to be? Is this what you envision your Presbytery doing? I understand our charge as a Presbytery — and mine as your executive presbyter — to be embodied in a continuing effort to nurture, guide, and govern the collective resources of this Presbytery and its people, in order to support congregations and equip leaders *in ways that nurture thoughtful expressions of God's mission in the world*. Our relationship of mutual accountability, expressed in ways like a Presbytery meeting, provides us the means to succeed in a world increasingly stacked against the ministry of the church.

Together in mission. May our continuing stories witness most to the mission of Christ.