

Presbytery Gathering's Play Date with Rev. Shawna Bowman

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area gathered on January 25, 2020, at Presbyterian Church of the Way, welcoming plenary speaker Rev. Shawna Bowman, an artist and pastor of Friendship Presbyterian Church in Chicago. Rev. Bowman inspired the presbytery to "Practice Playfulness;" reminding us that the freedom to play opens possibilities for us to experience life's events in new ways. After the stated meeting, Rev. Bowman led a workshop which expanded on these themes. For more information about Rev. Bowman, click HERE: <https://shawnabowman.com>

Worship was led by members of Bryn Mawr Presbyterian Church, and featured the commissioning of Rev. Luke Roske-Metcalf and his family (Rev. Andrea Roske-Metcalf, Olivia and Clementine) as they prepare to serve the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America in Kathmandu, Nepal. The presbytery celebrated Clementine Roske-Metcalf's sixth birthday by singing "Happy Birthday" and presenting her with a birthday cake. Ruling Elder Will Parker, Presbyterian Church of the Way, was commissioned as our presbytery's YAAD for the 224th General Assembly.

One hundred forty-five years of ministry and mission at Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church in Saint Paul were celebrated and honored, as the presbytery concurred with the request of congregation and acted to dissolve the congregation. The history of Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church was shared via a video created by clerk of session Darlinda Coe, which can be found here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jNp30En9H2c&feature=youtu.be>

Dayton Avenue Presbyterian Church's commitment to social justice ministries led to the founding of People, Inc., and to Liberty Plaza, Inc., which provides affordable housing in the Summit-University neighborhood of St. Paul. The congregation's legacy gifts will make it possible for Liberty Plaza to continue providing services for the residents.

The Presbytery adopted the framework recommended by the Presbytery Leadership Team to organize presbytery working groups, teams, committees and commissions around our stated priorities: Supporting Congregations, Equipping Leaders and Governing Effectively. The entire PLT report can be found HERE:

https://ptcaweb.org/images/PresMtgs/PLT_PKT2-1.pdf

Some of the changes in our operations:

- Commission on Ministry's functions will include four working teams, Pastoral Positions; Membership; Crisis Support and Ministry Discernment;
- Committee on Preparation for Ministry's charge will be broadened to include oversight and support for ruling elders responding to calls to become commissioned for service as well as inquirers and candidates under care preparing for ordination as Ministers of Word and Sacrament;

- The Board of Trustees' charge will include forming teams of resource persons who can offer specialized assistance to congregations in areas of human resources, legal matters, real estate/lending matters, and building maintenance;
- All grants, mission funding and scholarships will be coordinated through one committee: Missions, Scholarships & Grants; and
- Ruling elder leader development will become one of the Nominating Committee's responsibilities.

The restructuring work will continue over the next months, and be fully operational by May 12, 2020.

Continued discussion about the best use of the Strategic Ministries Funds (Bucket 2) was referred back to PLT. In addition to the PLT's recommendations, another proposal titled "Jubilee Proposal," was submitted by several Teaching Elders, which focuses on Matthew 25 as a basis the use of Bucket 2 funds. Information about the PLT recommendations and Jubilee Proposal can be found HERE:

https://ptcaweb.org/images/PresMtgs/PLT_PKT2-2.pdf

PLT will continue discussion of the Bucket 2 funds, and bring recommendations back to the presbytery at a future stated meeting.

Four conversations were offered prior to the Stated Meeting as "Open Spaces." The Roske-Metcalf family spoke about their family's faith journey and their excitement as they prepare to serve in Nepal; Diana Barber, chair of the Bills & Overtures Committee, discussed the committee's recommendations to concur with two Overtures to the 224th GA; Rocky Rockenstein, chair of PLT, led a discussion about the proposed restructuring of the presbytery; and Kendra Grams and Anna Kendig led a conversation about the Institutional Assessment we are about to begin.

The full meeting packets (yes, there are 2 packets!) can be found HERE:

https://ptcaweb.org/images/Documents/Packets/1-25-2020_PACKET_ONE_AND_TWO.pdf

The next Gathering of the presbytery will be Saturday, March 21, 2020, at Valley Community Presbyterian Church, Golden Valley, MN.