

# Jeff's Jottings

## *Celebrating a Holiday Weekend*

October 6, 2017

By Jeff Japinga  
Executive Presbyter

Did you know that this Sunday, Oct. 8, is Pastor Appreciation Day? And Monday is Thanksgiving Day for our friends north of the border, in Canada?

I don't know if there is a prescribed way to celebrate Pastor Appreciation Day. I hope perhaps you'll reach out to your pastor with a word of appreciation for the work she or he does. It's challenging, continual, essential, life-giving. Thank God for pastors.

As a pastor, and as your executive presbyter, I am also clear that the work and witness of the church of Jesus Christ happens only with and through the participation and support of all of us, just as the work of the Presbytery depends on dedicated and talented colleagues. This church truly is the body of Christ, and a community of faith, hope, love, and witness, as our *Book of Order* describes us.

In the spirit of these two upcoming holidays, then, please allow this pastor to express my public appreciation and thanksgiving to:

Brenda Alexander, chair, Mission and Witness Committee  
Risa Anderson, PTCA office manager and administrative coordinator  
Heidi Bolt, PTCA Acting COM Coordinator  
Jim Brasel, chair, Called Positions sub-committee  
David Colby, chair, Personnel Committee  
Lisa Johnson, co-chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Anna Kendig, chair, Committee on Ethics  
Barbara Lutter, stated clerk  
Suann Nichols, chair, Board of Trustees

Manley Olson, chair, Committee on Nominations  
David Parker, co-chair, Committee on Ministry  
TJ Parlette, moderator of the Presbytery  
Mike Quady, chair, Committee on Congregational Vitality  
Carol Reed, co-chair, Committee on Ministry  
Stephen Robertson, treasurer  
Rocky Rockenstein, vice-moderator of the Presbytery  
Luke Roske-Metcalf, co-chair, Committee on Preparation for Ministry  
Tom Ruter, chair, Self-Development of People Committee  
Sue Rutford, chair, Presbytery Leadership Team  
Paula Sanders, chair, Committee on Representation  
Peter Soulen, chair, Bills and Overture Committee  
Rich Swartwood, camp director, Clearwater Forest

These 22 people are also representative of hundreds more who pastor our 60-plus churches and fellowships; who live out their faith as ruling elders in those churches; who serve on Presbytery committees and task forces and working groups. They stand as representative of, literally, the hundreds and thousands of people in this Presbytery, individually and collectively, whose work and witness as followers of Jesus Christ and Presbyterian Christians point to the love and grace and hope of the gospel we proclaim. Because of them, and so many others, our churches are stronger; and when our churches are stronger, our communities are stronger.

The hard, oppressive news of this world continued this week, most recently in the terrorist shooting in Las Vegas and the continuing quest for justice in St. Louis. The people whose names appear above, and those they represent, are people helping to shape and promote the moral clarity and Christian hope that stand as a beacon in these challenging times.

On Pastor Appreciation Day, I deeply appreciate and give thanks for their work and witness.