

Reflection on General Synod 31

“There is a river whose streams Make Glad the city of God.” _ Psalm 46:4

My adventure to General Synod began near the banks of the Susquehanna River, at the Penn Central Conference office, when we boarded the bus to Baltimore. Soon we were on our way, moving along route I-83, and crossing the river on the south bridge. We crossed the river that flows southeasterly into the Chesapeake Bay where Baltimore, the site of the Synod meeting is located. Here, we came again to the water which had come past our starting point, from origins throughout the land of the Penn Central Conference.

The second plenary, on Saturday included the presentation of the Movement Makers Award to young people who were the Water Protectors that camped out at Standing Rock, to stop the Dakota Access Pipeline from despoiling the water of the Missouri River. These Water Protectors told their story later that day in an hour long workshop.

Sunday lunch was given to a trip to the Inner Harbor, for food and a closer presence to the water, some of which came from our Central Pennsylvania. The theme for the next two years is love of Children, love of Neighbor, and love of Creation. Now, creation includes a lot of water. The earth has more sea surface than land area, so we are again following the water. It is not surprising that a child is frequently brought into the Church by the watery Sacrament of baptism. It is all about water. We honor the Water Protectors. Water is Life, protect the sacred. I am very happy to have been part of GS31.

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