

Dear Friends and Colleagues,



On September 18th I accepted a call to be the next General Presbyter for the Hudson River Presbytery. It is an honor that I embrace with joy, excitement and a little anxiety. I begin my work with them on November 1.

I have worked for the Presbytery of Baltimore for 13 years. During that time, we have seen many changes: changes in our vision, our staff and changes in how we relate to each other. We have moved from a programming-type presbytery into a congregationally focused one. It has been good.

During that same time, my responsibilities have changed as well. I was hired to be your Associate for Mission & Justice with my portfolio centering on the missions that we financially supported and the work of the Peace & Justice Committee. As your new vision was inculcated, I became the Associate for Reconciliation. We moved from funneling funds to nonprofits to deepening partnerships around the world. Our Cuba partnership flourished and expanded from 2 congregational partners to 9. Our biannual Encuentros are amazing! The Dakota partnership continues to add new learning camps and we've moved into supporting social justice issues along with our native American brothers and sisters. After a hiatus, the Guatemala partnership has risen once again to be strong partners with CEDEPCA. Each of these teams is fully supported by dedicated, committed leaders.

Ministry Groups were formed and I am particularly proud of the work of the Uptown Metro and InTheLoop groups, with whom I have worked for years. Uptown used their funding to hire a community organizer three years ago and they continue to build strong relationships in the Woodbourne McCabe neighborhood. InTheLoop spearheaded the powerful work that the presbytery is now doing in racial reconciliation.

And somewhere during those changes, we managed to gather a few like-minded folks in the room and conceived of The Center. Look at it now!

I am so proud of the people with whom I've worked in this Presbytery. More than once I have looked around during a Presbytery meeting at you all and thought, "This is my community. I love this place....."

God has indeed been good to us. We are blessed with resources and talent and community that many other presbyteries do not have. It is my wish for you that you continue to thrive, continue to be involved in your presbytery, never stop discerning where God is next leading, and always support and love each other.

My last day in the Baltimore Presbytery will be October 19. I hope we get to say a more personal goodbye before then. You will always be a part of me.

Peace and continued blessings-