

Reflection on the PC(USA) “Matthew 25 Summit”

January 16-18, 2024 – New Life Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA

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When I accepted the position to be Moderator-Elect for Savannah Presbytery in 2019, I was able to attend the PC(USA) Moderators’ Conference in Louisville that November for training. This was the first time I learned about the Matthew 25 vision developing within the PC(USA) to address the call of both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies (2016 and 2018) for the denomination to act boldly and compassionately to build congregational vitality, dismantle structural racism and eradicate systemic poverty.

At the time, I had been aware that God had been calling me to explore racism in culture, to examine my own thoughts and actions, and to explore evidences of racism in the Church and our Savannah Presbytery. I was grateful to learn that the denomination was offering tools for education and study and support for congregations and mid-councils to address racism, poverty, and congregational vitality and began to learn more about the Matthew 25 vision myself.

Attending the first “Matthew 25 Summit” in January energized me to keep my focus in my work as Director of Administration/Stated Clerk on the three themes of the Matthew 25 vision – which I believe are working on me to deepen my faith and to deepen the relationships and ministries of those who are engaging with them.

Hearing speakers and workshop leaders whose spirit is alive with the desire to see churches thrive, racial hurts and injustices acknowledged and mended, and people in need served from the heart of Christ brought joy to my spirit. The types of tasks I am called to fill out in my work for the Presbytery may be tedious to some, but they have great significance when I look at them through the Matthew 25 lens. The Matthew 25 Summit helped me consider how what I am doing is serving those whom Jesus wanted his followers to see – the hungry and thirsty, the strangers, the naked, the sick, and the prisoners. My notes from the conference fill an entire pad. I look forward to talking about it all with those who are interested in knowing more.

Thank you Savannah Presbytery for giving me the opportunity to learn more about the Matthew 25 Vision of the PC(USA).