



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is hard to believe we are approaching the advent of a new Christian year. I know that many of you are deep into planning for the busy holiday season ahead. I want to take this opportunity to share my excitement about the upcoming November Presbytery meeting which will be held at the Overbrook Presbyterian Church.

We have some excellent pre-presbytery conversations lined up. There will be an information session from the Board of Pensions which I highly recommend. There will also be an opportunity to hear more about the Vital Congregations Initiative that many of you have been interested in. And last, but certainly not least, there will be a session having to do with the redesign of the Presbytery's bylaws. Please come early and plan to attend one of these three pre-presbytery conversations.

Many of you are aware that our presbytery recently sent a team to El Paso, Texas to learn first-hand about the pressing issues on our southern border. One of the items of business at our meeting will be to hear a report from the team about what was learned and experienced from that encounter. As one of the team members, I would like to personally thank the presbytery for having sent us, and I look forward, along with the rest of the team, of sharing what we experienced.

Our denomination is gearing up for the 224th General Assembly which will be held in Baltimore in the summer of 2020. One of the items of business for our November meeting will be to receive nominations for delegates to send to the General Assembly. Another important item of business we will have to attend to is to receive nominations for the positions of Moderator and Vice Moderator of the Presbytery for 2020.

This meeting will also have a time of thanksgiving and celebration for those who have labored long in the vineyard of our Lord. We will especially be lifting-up Olivet Prospect Park Presbyterian Church and giving thanks for their long years of faithful and dedicated service.

We are honored to have as our guest preacher for the evening, Sera Chung. Sera is an accomplished musician, preacher, and spokesperson for the values of justice and cultural humility. Most recently, she served as the Director of the Asian American Program at Princeton Theological Seminary. We look forward to what God has placed on her heart to share with us.

This is going to be a wonderful Presbytery meeting and I hope to see you all there.

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Barge".

Randy Barge