



*Dear Friends,*

I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season. My tenure as Moderator is coming to an end. It is hard to believe that two years have gone by since I first embarked upon this journey, first as Vice-Moderator and then as Moderator. But I guess it is true what they say, time flies when you are having fun.

I look forward to seeing everyone at our upcoming January Presbytery meeting. As usual, we have some wonderful Pre-Presbytery conversations lined up. We will continue our Encounter with the Border conversation. It will be an opportunity to expand on the conversation started at our November Presbytery meeting. The Presbyterian Historical Society will also be with us to talk about preserving our past. There will also be a conversation around our new Child and Youth Protection Policy which will also be considered for approval during our meeting. I hope you will plan to attend one of these important Pre-Presbytery conversations.

During our actual meeting we will hear reports from both our Leadership Collegium and our Executive Presbyter. We will also hear an announcement concerning the Vital Congregations pilot program that our presbytery was recently selected to participate in. Several churches have signed up to be a part of the journey and we all look forward to hearing how that is progressing. And last, but certainly not least, we will vote on the Grand Prize winner from our Dream Tank for Ministry Possibilities recipients.

We look forward to having with us Elder Vilmarie Cintrón-Olivieri, Co-Moderator, Presbyterian Church, USA, who will bring our message for the day. She will be preaching from Matthew 3:13-17, "Called in Baptism."

That leads me to the highlight of our time together, which will be our time for worship. During that time, we will install our new Moderator, Elder Vijay Aggarwal and our new Vice-Moderator, Reverend Ashley Rossi. I would like to thank Vijay for being a wonderful Vice-Moderator and for all his support over the last year. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank our Presbytery leadership, our Executive Presbyter and staff, and all of you, for a great year. It has truly been an honor and privilege to serve as Moderator of this great Presbytery.

*Blessings and Peace!*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Barge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Rev. Randy Barge, Moderator of the Presbytery of Philadelphia