



AUTHENTIC, CARING RELATIONSHIPS

Date

Lisa Heckman

Dear friends,

Relationships. We all need them. Hopefully, we all want them. Relationships that are nurturing and supportive. Ones that make us thrive.

I see healthy relationships all over our presbytery and beyond. Shared mission like Food for the Journey not only meets an urgent need, but builds ties between congregations and collegiality among pastors and church leaders. There are ad hoc and deliberate clergy gatherings like the Rock County pastors meeting together for food and fellowship. Leaders from our presbytery are in conversations with the leaders of the Winnebago and John Knox presbyteries in ways we can collaborate. And I've just come from a Zoom conversation with presbytery leaders from across the Synod of Lakes and Prairies that sparked many ideas for me as I heard what is happening elsewhere.

Continuing to build authentic and caring relationships within our presbytery is a priority of mine. That is why I'm worshiping with congregations, have had one-on-ones with some pastors (more to follow), and will be meeting with sessions. I want to connect people and ministries all around the presbytery as we see we are not so different from one another. We are stronger together instead of trying to follow Jesus down separate paths.

An African saying goes "If you want to go fast, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." In ministry, I find "fast" rarely cuts it. We are to be about today, tomorrow, and the future. We need to go together. May it be so.

Grace and Peace.

Lisa

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