



## **A Letter to My Church**

October 24, 2018

Rachel Yates

Dear Church,

I just wanted to send a quick note to let you know how proud I am of you. You were busy last weekend, and you did good, faithful work.

On Saturday, we held our second Lombard Mennonite Peace Center workshop on healthy congregations, and thirteen of you came to learn. You honed your skills in conflict transformation. Thank you for striving to be a church of peace, in which disagreements are handled in a productive and Christ-like way.

On Sunday, I witnessed you baptize five people, including a man and his three young children at Crossroads Presbyterian Church. I'll never forget the face of the man's young son (about 6 years old), who watched with rapt attention and an ear-to-ear grin as his dad went through the sacrament of baptism. As soon as his dad stood up, the youngster immediately knelt down where his father had been, ready to follow his lead. That memory will bless my soul. Thank you for being a church that shares the gospel and invites people into Christian community.

I celebrated with you the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Christ Presbyterian Church. The soul food lunch was delicious, but the true soul food happens down the hall, in the sanctuary. At Christ Presbyterian, you have been feeding souls in the community for sixty years, and you honored the people who continue to lead the congregation. Thank you for being a church that nurtures disciples of Christ in a community that needs you, a city that needs you, and a Presbytery that needs you.

You also made me proud as I joined in the ordination of Rev. Katie Ebel on Sunday afternoon at Faith Springs. You surrounded Katie with love and support when you came from across the Presbytery to be present for this momentous occasion. What a joy that we had to find extra folding chairs and ran out of bulletins! Praise be to God for your presence and her ministry! Thank you for being a church that values pastoral leadership and embraces a ministry of presence.

I only caught a glimpse of you on this busy weekend. Forty-three churches gathered for worship and many for Bible study and fellowship and mission. Dear Church, I'm proud of you – not for your accomplishments and activities, but for the ways you seek to glorify God as the Church of Jesus Christ.

So, what are you doing next weekend?