



## A Grand Adventure

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In the past, I've written about my hunt for good estate sales. This past weekend, I found an estate sale near my home and received an unexpected treasure. My husband and I arrived at 10:30 am, and a line had formed outside. As we waited for our turn to go in, we admired the lawn furniture and jealously eyed what each departing shopper carried out: a signed, framed Aaron Rogers jersey, ceramic rabbits, a coffee table. The front door opened again, and a young boy (perhaps 5 years old) came outside with his father and younger sister. With the most sincere tone, he exclaimed, "It has turned out to be a *wonderful* day!" Climbing into the double-wide stroller next to his sister, he then asked, "Can we go now and get breakfast, too?" His genuine enthusiasm brightened the mood of all who were standing in line.

I puzzled over what had made his day so wonderful. By 10:30 am, I'm still usually hedging my bets on how the day will go, unwilling to commit.

This young boy came out of the estate sale empty-handed, so it's not that his father bought him a special toy. He hadn't had breakfast yet, so he wasn't filled up with sticky sweet pancakes. Instead it appeared that this family had been out for a morning walk through the neighborhood and paused to take in the estate sale. It struck me that he found his delight in being on an adventure with the people he loved.

The adventure began with the intention to take a walk, but the family had the spontaneity to recognize the new opportunity before them. The adventure didn't require adherence to a plan, nor did it require a successful purchase at the estate sale to be worth the stop. The sheer joy of being together on the adventure made this young one pronounce the day "wonderful!"

As I continue to muse on the Presbytery's chosen core values (authentic relationships, collaborative leadership, and risk taking for the sake of the gospel), I realize we have the same potential for a wonderful adventure. As we risk together for the sake of the gospel, we can go places, take detours, and enjoy the company of those we love. Having just celebrated Pentecost, we are keenly aware that the Spirit will move us in directions we'd never have chosen for ourselves. So long as our intention of living and celebrating the gospel motivates us, we have the freedom to venture toward new forms of being the church.

Risking together for the sake of the gospel isn't counted as successful because our journey follows a designed path, nor because it produces tangible rewards. It is instead our collective daring and spontaneity for the gospel that makes this adventure wonderful.

For some who prefer a plan, such an adventure might feel uncomfortable. That's why we don't go alone. We go with the ones we love, and we find our courage together. Then, if it's been an especially good adventure, we can even go get breakfast afterward.