



Co-Workers in God's Service

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Do you remember Steve Martin's excitement in "The Jerk" when he cries out, "The new phone book's here! The new phone book's here!" That's sort of how it feels around the Presbytery office this week as we launch the 2020 Presbytery Gathering speaker series. [Check out this line-up!](#)

We plan to gather four times this year around the theme of being Co-Workers in God's Service, based on 1 Corinthians 3:7-9 (NIV). You'll see a nice progression of the theme. We start on February 4 by looking at how we work within our congregations and our Presbytery. Do we just assume the pastor does everything? In the absence of a pastor, are we waiting on projects? Beyond the bounds of our congregation, we'll look at the work we do together. The February meeting is when we install and commission new co-workers in the life of the Presbytery, so it's a nice tie-in to our collaborative ministry.

On May 16 (a Saturday!), you will have a smorgasbord of workshops to learn how we can engage as co-workers with our denominational partners. We are delighted to invite guests from Carroll University, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Presbyterian Homes & Services, the Young Adult Volunteer program, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, and more. Together, we can build on each other's gifts and experience. We will be hosted by Carroll University, and we're excited to return to this campus with deep Presbyterian roots.

September 29's Gathering will offer a wide perspective on how we work together with ecumenical, interfaith, and community partners. Our panelists will include the directors of the Interfaith Conference of Greater Milwaukee and the Wisconsin Council of Churches, as well as two community partners: one a recipient of the recent legacy grant of the former Bethany Presbyterian Church, and the other housed in one of our churches. Apostle Presbyterian will host us, just as they host one of these panelists: Shared Journeys, a public schools program for teenage parents.

Finally, we'll head to Covenant Presbyterian in Racine on November 12, for a practical tutorial on community organizing from Dennis Jacobsen, retired ELCA pastor and community organizer. This gathering will give us the chance to pull together all we've learned over the year and put it to practical use.

Many of us have lamented the divide between our congregations and our communities. We can feel – and be perceived as – disconnected or irrelevant. Our focus for the year will be on reestablishing those connections in healthy and faithful ways, not for preservation of the church, but as God's co-workers for the kingdom. While our minister members and designated ruling elder commissioners are expected to participate, all are welcome. We invite you to learn about the business of the Presbytery, enjoy the fellowship of our dinner and worship, and take away useful guidance from our education hour. We hope to see you there!