



Healing Through Action

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The day you've been waiting for is coming. No, not the election; not a vaccine. The next Presbytery Gathering! We will meet on September 29 by Zoom, and [registration](#) is opening this week. It's a time (4-6 pm) not to miss.

We'll address business, including our 2021 budget, per capita discussion (everyone's favorite), a proposal to become a Matthew 25 Presbytery, new policies for pastors including minimum compensation standards (another favorite), and introductions of new minister members. We will worship together for the first time since February.

If that weren't enough to get you [registered now](#), we'll be introducing our new Gathering theme of Healing Through Action. Lord knows we need healing right now. [You do know, Lord, yes?] We long for healing for our physical, emotional, and spiritual wounds. With the isolation brought on by the pandemic, you might be trying to wrestle with all of these on your own. The Presbytery Gathering is a space in which we can let down our guard and be authentic with each other about how we're doing: the good and the bad.

One of the highlights of our Presbytery Gatherings has been our one-hour education time. With the reality of Zoom fatigue, we know it's not realistic to try that on top of a business meeting and worship. So, we're going to use a different approach through the end of the year at least. At each Gathering, we will have time to hear about a new topic. We'll be introduced to it and invited (challenged, dare I say) to learn more. Most importantly, we'll be invited to act.

As much as we want healing, we know that it cannot be passive. Many of the wounds that we collectively suffer right now come from years – and in some cases, centuries – of inaction. Just as we care for ourselves physically, emotionally, and spiritually, we are called by God into action. We are called to extend that healing to others. Learning is valuable because it grounds our work, but work there must be. So, we will also offer opportunities for helpful action on each topic area.

We are diving into Matthew 25 and the question of "Lord, when did I see you?" When did we see God imprisoned, hungry, thirsty, naked, or sick? When did we act? When did we fail to act? Through the [topic areas](#) of food security, access to quality healthcare, employment, criminal justice, and housing, we will explore together the intersection of systemic poverty, structural racism, and the role of the church. Most of that learning will be between Gatherings, with an introductory invitation at the meeting itself. We will give time for reflection at the succeeding Gathering.

As we heal, we act. In order to heal, we must act. We know that is asking a lot of you right now. We're all tired. That's why this won't be an individual effort. Together, we will get through this time, and we will be healthier on the back side.