



Spirit Inspired  
Worship



## **Good Fortune**

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I ate them both. There were two fortune cookies left, so I ate both. I'm not sure if that jinxes my fortune. I hope not because I liked the paper fortunes I found in both of them. One fortune was: "You are the flexible person in your present situation." Very true. I've felt like I'm juggling work and family obligations, trying to be available to everyone. I'm not always succeeding, but flexibility is a characteristic in high demand.



My present situation – as your bridge executive – has required flexibility. I've carved out time for the ongoing ministries in Milwaukee Presbytery, even while serving with the Boise Presbytery. I've had to do the mental math of being on a different time zone and keeping track of which presbytery is which when my calendar says only "Finance Committee."

I'm absolutely not, however, the only person who has needed to be flexible. You've accommodated my inability to be physically present when that really would have been better. Staff and commissions have adjusted workflow and responsibilities, so I could move to part-time status. Thank you, Milwaukee Presbytery, for your wonderful flexibility during this time of transition!

As you will read in Fresh Impressions this week, the Executive Search Team has identified a terrific Transitional Executive Presbyter to lead you through the next phase of the presbytery's life and ministry. The Presbytery Personnel Committee and Council have been working to get all the arrangements in place for Rev. Lisa Heckman to begin on October 1.

This, too, will require flexibility. We are trying mightily not to bombard her yet with ideas or opportunities, so that she can end well in her current congregational ministry. When she does begin, she'll need some time to get her feet under her. You might need to be flexible about who does what and how quickly. In all transitional work, maintaining flexibility lets you dream and experiment.

Someone recently shared this wisdom, "All transitions begin with an ending." For Rev. Heckman, that means an ending for her current congregational ministry. For me, it means ending my time as your executive after what will be almost 6 years. I'm stretching it out until October 1. I swear, this has been the longest goodbye ever!

I mentioned that I ate two fortune cookies. The second cookie's paper fortune made me smile with gladness: "You will always be surrounded by good friends." I have been blessed to meet so many people in Milwaukee Presbytery and to count you as my friends. In this small Presbyterian world, I trust that we will cross paths again in the future, and your friendship will continue to be a source of comfort and fond memories.

P.S. In case anyone plays the lottery, my lucky numbers are 6, 24, 21, 33, 36, and 22.