

Presbytery Gathering

Presbytery of Milwaukee

March 7, 2018

Presbytery Gathering Focus Is on Risk-Taking

Risk-taking for the sake of the gospel was the theme for yesterday's Presbytery Gathering, held at Forest Park Presbyterian Church in New Berlin.

The Gathering began with the business meeting. The Rev. Brett Swanson is now installed at Wauwatosa Presbyterian; Rev. Catherine Neal is now retired. Beginning in April, Rev. Michelle Henrichs is temporarily replacing JP Kastner, as Acting Co-Moderator for CPM. JP will be out until September.

New Elder Commissioners were introduced. The Consent Agenda was approved.

Rachel Yates gave the Presbytery Executive Report. She also shared that it has been a joyful year, and we are now in the midst of One Great Hour of Sharing offering. The congregation with the highest contribution last year, per capita, was Fox Lake. She also mentioned that it is time for per capita expenses to be submitted; First Kenosha and Bethesda were the first to submit their contribution in full. She introduced Rev. Ken Green, our Board of Pensions church consultant, who hosted a table at dinner to discuss new initiatives. Rachel announced that the Rev. Dr. Neddy Astudillo is leaving the presbytery to take a position with Green Faith, and she invited Neddy to share reflections on her time at San Jose (which have been reprinted in this edition of Fresh Impressions).

The Personnel Report included a search for the newly-titled Associate for Ministry Vitality. Interviews are in progress.

The Council Report included the following: Rev. Rob Ater is retiring as Council Moderator, and Rev. Jim Rand would take the next term.

The Nominating Committee slate was approved. The Calvary Presbyterian campaign to raise funds for building restoration was granted \$5000 from Foundation. Rev. Elizabeth McCord, Chaplain at Carroll University, is appointed to Commission on Ministry, class of 2019.

Under new business, one of the two Good Shepherd Trinity buildings, was approved for sale. Also, the Administrative Commission is dissolved at Forest Park Presbyterian, since an interim pastor has been installed.

The Partnerships Committee is offering camp scholarships, including group camping scholarships. Elizabeth McCord is planning an Alternative Spring Break for students, and

Janesville and Rock Prairie congregations are planning a mission trip to Mississippi, to help with tornado cleanup and repair. Partnerships is helping to fund both trips.

The next part of the meeting included a panel of speakers who had attended and were inspired by the NEXT Church conference. They spoke on the topic of Risk-Taking for the Sake of the Gospel. They shared their messages of challenge and hope, of how the church would look in the future, of what we are called to do as Christians. Culture would need to change, and we would need to act as though we expect the Holy Spirit to appear in any interaction. We cannot construct walls, since that puts Jesus on the other side of the wall. We need to include the most vulnerable.

Worship was innovative and also featured taking risks. God asks us to follow Christ in how we live. The congregation was asked to write, on notecards, what they could risk offering Christ in their lives, putting the cards in the collection plate at the close of the service. The Installation and Commissioning of Elders occurred during the service.

Thank you to all who participated in this gathering, to all who acted in leadership roles, and to our hosts for the evening. It was an evening of fellowship and renewal, and challenge to take risks for the sake of the gospel.





