

Saying Yes

March 7, 2018

Sometimes I say “yes” too quickly. When I moved to Denver, I joined a new Presbyterian congregation. Not long into my time there, a member of the nominating committee found me during the fellowship hour and asked whether I would like to serve as an elder. “Yes!” I responded swiftly and eagerly.

Then, I asked sheepishly, “What’s an elder?” I added a follow-up question based on my literal interpretation of the word: “Do I need to be old?”

So began a time of intentional service to the church that would prove to be more of a blessing to me than I could have imagined.

I remembered this invitation to serve as I participated in last night’s Presbytery worship and the installation and commissioning of officers. Certain people were called forward to answer the constitutional questions for service. What a privilege to be among them! Then Rev. Ann Gibbs asked for all commission, committee, and work group members to stand to be recognized as well. Nearly the whole assembly stood. That was a powerful witness to your commitment to the ministries that God is working through our Presbytery. Thank you to all who have served and who are just stepping into service at the Presbytery. We cannot do this work without you.

My hopefulness was also edified by participating in the interviews of candidates for the new Associate for Ministry Vitality position. Applicants from across the country have expressed their interest in this position, and your Personnel Committee questioned them at length about how this role can be a catalyst for congregational ministry vitality.

Sure, these people were putting their best foot forward because they were seeking employment. But, deeper than that, we heard a desire to serve God with their whole lives. It made me proud to be part of a Presbyterian denomination in which we affirm the unique gifts for ministry that all of us have been given.

I give thanks to God for each of you. Whether you are serving in the Presbytery, your congregation, at the national level, or in your community ministries, you have said “yes,” even when it wasn’t convenient. You might have said “yes” swiftly and before you knew what you were getting yourself into. Never forget that your response was not just a “yes” for the nominating committee to fill an open slot, but a “yes” for God’s work in the world. Amen and amen!