

## **General Presbyter Report to Presbytery November 2018**

We continue with lots of good work around the Presbytery and denomination since our last gathering:

It is a joy to have our new Stated Clerk, the Rev. David Baer, alongside for ministry leadership in the Presbytery. Together David and I have been resourcing the AC for the Valley Presbyterian Church and also working through the COM to resource this Congregation. I am grateful for all that David has done to assist this process forward. Much of our intensive work this fall has been with the Committee on Ministry and I have continued my focus on Mission/Vision, annual staff reviews with the Personnel Committee and some internal IT functionality that we are bringing on board to upgrade and enhance the virtual office experience for the Presbytery. It's been a busy fall but an exciting time to do work with this Presbytery.

### **Denominational Gatherings**

Fall tends to be a busy time for denominational gatherings for those of us in mid-council work, and this fall has been follow up time post General Assembly. Along with David and a team from the Presbytery, I attended the Assembly of the Synod of the Northeast in Albany, NY where we had both anti-racism training with Crossroads and the full Synod Assembly business meeting. PSNE was well-represented at this gathering. David and I also attended the Mid-Council Leadership Gathering in Chicago, IL that is offered by the Office of the General Assembly, the Presbyterian Mission Agency, the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Foundation. We engaged the work of Fear+Less Dialogues at this event. Take a look at what they offer: <https://www.fearlessdialogues.com>

I also had meetings this fall with the Mission Agency and the General Assembly Committee on Ecumenical and Interfaith Relationships, responsibilities that take me through the next General Assembly. I am glad to report to the Presbytery that the denomination is in a really strong and exciting place with new leadership and lots of new energy!

## **Board of Pensions**

Our regional representative, the Rev. Dr. Allison Seed from the Board of Pensions is retiring in the New Year. Her replacement has not yet been named. Allison will be coming back to visit us in PSNE two more times before she ends: to meet with the full COM, Personnel Committee and staff in November and to talk to some specific congregations in December. I encourage all members of Presbytery to reach out to Allison to thank her for her care and service to us for many, many years. We will have a card for you to sign at this meeting, but sending her personal expressions of your thanksgiving would be very appropriate as well to the Board of Pensions office in Philadelphia. She has offered to all of us incredible service and advocacy for a long time.

## **Hartford Seminary**

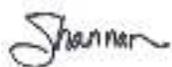
In case you have not heard, Hartford Theological Seminary has a New President: Rev. Joel Lohr. He was installed to his position this past weekend and we welcome him to ministry among us! His bio can be found at this link:

<https://www.hartsem.edu/2018/02/joel-n-lohr-named-president-of-hartford-seminary/>

We have much to be grateful for in this season of thanksgiving, God's Spirit of connectionalism, the resources present and the opportunities to engage our shared ministry with our neighbors and colleagues. It is my prayer that your ministry in this important time in the life of our nation, world and local communities reflects the love, peace and justice of Jesus Christ as deeply as possible. Those inside and outside our doors are so deeply hungry for it!

I look forward to seeing the full Presbytery on November 17th!

Blessings,



Rev. Shannan R. Vance-Ocampo, General Presbyter