



## THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND

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### MODERATOR'S REFLECTIONS LONG ISLAND PRESBYTERY MEETING: JANUARY 29, 2022

Greetings! May the peace of the Lord be with you all,

We had a focused all virtual meeting. Mostly, we worked on 'Long Island Overture to the 225<sup>th</sup> GA of the PC (USA).' Four words stand out in retrospect. They are 'forward thinking,' 'prophetic voices,' 'beginning step,' and 'repair.'

We all appreciated the forward thinking of the Advanced Planning committee. They decided early that our January Presbytery Meeting will be all virtual in anticipation of inclement weather. And surely enough we had a harsh snowstorm. Yet, we were all sheltered. It is a blessing to have siblings with wisdom and foresight. Thank you.

Our meeting was graced with the visit and the prophetic words of the 224<sup>th</sup> GA Co-moderator, ruling elder Elona Street-Stewart. Then, our outgoing moderator, ruling elder E. Magalene McClarrin, prepared us for our small group discussions and larger group deliberation of the overture. The buildup and the process were excellent. However, allotted time for the small group discussion was not enough. And without prior knowledge of race and ethnicity of the attendees, we could not create small groups with diversity. In addition, the topic of racism touched and opened old and fresh wounds. We did not have sufficient time to process. However, we all agreed that it is a long process. I appreciated the members who exercised tremendous grace and composure in expressing strong emotions.

I appreciated the diligence and commitment to the refinement and the precision in the wordings of Long Island Overture to the 225<sup>th</sup> GA. Here is the introduction part of the Overture that was adopted.

#### Recommendation

As a beginning step in the quest for truth, equity, justice, reconciliation and repair,  
The Presbytery of Long Island overtures the 225<sup>th</sup> General Assembly (2022) to offer an  
Apology to African Americans for the sin of Slavery and its legacy, and to approve the  
following statements.

The phrase 'beginning step' implies that there is more to come. And the word 'repair' suggests getting our hands and feet dirty to do some tactile, tangible, and visible works. "So Let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up" (Galatians 6:9). See you in-person or virtually at the April meeting.

Have a blessed Lent and Easter,

Teaching Elder Joshua H. Jong, Moderator  
First Presbyterian Church, New Hyde Park