



THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND

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MODERATOR'S REFLECTIONS LONG ISLAND PRESBYTERY MEETING: April 30, 2022

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

We just had a hybrid meeting at Faith Presbyterian Church (Great Neck). The exterior of the church building looked the same, but the interior was completely new. Somethings were old, yet many things were given new look and vitality. The church is open again with new hearts. And I think this church serves as an excellent metaphor for our April meeting. Some of the 'old' things, church being church, are given new vitality.

Three committees' reports focusing on Matthew 25 initiatives are bringing new vitality to church being church. Matthew 25 is a call for all of us as followers of Jesus Christ to actively engage in the world around us, so our faith comes alive, and we wake up to new possibilities. By accepting the Matthew 25 invitation, we can help our denomination become a more relevant presence in the world. A French Jesuit priest said, "We are not human beings having a spiritual experience; we are spiritual beings having a human experience" (Pierre Teilhard de Chardin). Our faith is about what happens in our human context, as much as it is about what happens within the church.

I remember listening to Gustavo Gutierrez speaking in Peru. He asked, "How do you say God loves you to the poor without giving them bread?" I believe mature faith is contextual, practical, and intentional. I am grateful and excited about the works of the committees. They are 'Foundation and Horizons Task Force,' 'Hunger Action Commission,' and 'Bringing Racial Equity And Diversity (B.R.E.A.D.).' They will steer us in the direction of fulfilling Matthew 25 initiatives together as connectional church. Let us pray for their works. Let us also become part of the answer to our prayers. Let us become Matthew 25 churches.

The commissioning of the GA commissioners was also very special. They are the bridges that connect us to our larger church. Let us pray for their preparation and participation in GA. And I look forward to our all in-person June Presbytery meeting. Stay safe and healthy. See you in June at our new Presbytery center on Saturday, June 25, 2022 at 9a.m.

"Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." Isaiah 43:19 (RSV)

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