



## THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND

109 Udall Road, West Islip, NY 11795  
(631) 499-7171 • FAX (631) 499-7063

### MODERATOR'S REFLECTIONS

**LONG ISLAND PRESBYTERY MEETING: Saturday, June 25, 2022**

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

This past Presbytery meeting had a feel of 'New' Homecoming. The Presbytery Center was new, but the atmosphere of the day felt familiar. Meeting in person for the first time in couple years felt both new and familiar. We had almost 80 people present at the meeting. And we had a set of three small group times. They provided opportunities for substantive dialogue and fellowship. Then, the return of the Flushing House to nourish us with goodies was a blessing. In addition, we had lunch outside under tents on spacious lawn. Even the weather was great. During the meeting, we approved our annual budget and the presented motions. We worked hard and it was a gratifying day. The day truly affirmed the blessings of being connectional churches.

This Presbytery meeting focused on Matthew 25. It was a step forward in taking the mission seriously. Your participations in three small groups provided a huge step forward. They will provide grounds for future formation and implementation of changes. We need to serve, revitalize, and empower our churches. Then, we will be able to make more positive impacts on our communities at large. My recent Bible Study on Genesis 18 confirmed this vision. In the chapter, Abraham was blessed to become a channel of blessing, positive influence on the people around him. Then, in the same chapter, his story is juxtaposed with the story of Lot in Sodom and Gomorrah. Lot's life did not have a positive influence on his community. Instead, his life was influenced by his community. In the end, God pulled him out of that community.

One of the motions at the meeting brought to the surface a serious challenge that all small churches are facing. Are the closings of small churches inevitable? I do not believe that. If you think about it, all churches started small. The challenge is stopping and turning the tide. How do we do that? We need to take actions. If we do what is pleasing to God, the rest will take care of itself. God likes missions. We need to be missional churches. Matthew 25 is one of the answers. Galatians 6:7, "Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow." We need to examine how much we invest on missions in our individual churches. If we are not investing on missions, then what? May your churches be fruitful like well-watered garden. Have a safe and healthy summer.

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