



## THE PRESBYTERY OF LONG ISLAND

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### MODERATOR'S REFLECTIONS

**LONG ISLAND PRESBYTERY MEETING: Saturday, September 24, 2022**

Greetings! May the peace of the Lord be with you all. I give thanks to God and our faithful members for closing our last Presbytery meeting of 2022 with humility, courage, integrity, and unity. For me, the theme of our meeting was repair, reform, and revitalize. Our first report required our utmost attention. The Pastoral Investigation Committee presented a report, which reflected empathy, diligence, and integrity. I appreciated their commitment to sharing the truth with our presbytery and for helping us identify recommendations that will aid the presbytery in not repeating the sins of our past. Hymns and prayers were lifted, asking for the Spirit of repentance and discernment to guide us. The sounds of native's drum beats and singing were deeply moving in our self-examination and self-reflection. We took an opportunity to initiate repairing what has been 'broken.' We hope and pray that our actions will expedite the ongoing healing process.

It was significant to have the meeting at Shinnecock Presbyterian Church, in its community center. Our presbytery needs to renew and strengthen the connection with the ministry at Shinnecock Presbyterian Church. So, it was exciting to install Rev. Michael F. Smith as the next moderator of 2023 before the adjournment. The drumming by the Shinnecock Indian Nations Drums for the occasion was very moving. And the lyrics of the song were profound. Moreover, Rev. Mike Smith's 95-year-old mother, the former clerk of the session, graced the special occasion with her presence, and her speech.

In between, in addition to the reports from our committees, there were other important reports. For example, Hunger Mission Commission gave time to Springs East Hampton Food Pantry ministry to introduce their successful ministry as an excellent model for other churches. B.R.E.A.D. talked about the upcoming Presbytery Day on Saturday, October 29. Please join us. Finally, GA Commissioners shared their experiences, reflections, and highlights. Everyone was moved and empowered by the connections they experienced with the larger church, PCUSA. I pray to our loving God that all of you will have a bountiful Thanksgiving and blessed season of Advent. I thank you for your support and prayers during my tenure as the 2022 moderator of the Long Island Presbytery. It has been a blessing. Praise God. "The Lord bless you and keep you; the Lord make his face to shine upon you and be gracious to you" (Numbers 6:24-25).

Sincerely yours in Christ,

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