



PRESBYTERY OF NEW COVENANT

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

Growing congregations that passionately engage their community to make disciples.

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*General Presbyter
Emeritus*

Greetings for 2020! This is an amazing time for beginnings! Some say this is the beginning of a new decade; others say the new decade will actually begin with January 1, 2021. However you think of it, January 1 is a beginning of a new year, a new month, and a new day each and every year! And, a reminder that each of our days can be the start of new behaviors and choices.

Part of *beginning* for me is taking a look back for reflection. You may remember that General Council has had 3 goals over the last few years of transition since Mike Cole, our General Presbyter retired, and our membership declined. There was a need to evaluate staffing, evaluate the use of our facility on Lovett, and hire a General Presbyter. Those goals were all accomplished by the end of 2019. We never lost sight of our Presbytery's mission during the transition and continue to support churches in "Growing congregations that passionately engage their communities to make disciples."

You may have noticed the 2020 Theme for New Covenant Connections will focus on the Great Ends of the Church. I am suggesting our presbytery meeting theme will be the "Shelter, nurture, and spiritual fellowship of the children of God." Our meetings have been lively gatherings with plenty of conversation and sharing between our member congregations. I pray 2020 will bring even more new opportunities for those connections and conversations that nurture and deepen our spiritual fellowship with each other, as well as motivate us to reach out to those with a profound need of grace and love.

I hope you are already familiar with "Vital Congregations", a revitalization vision from the PCUSA Mission Agency and a framework for churches who are looking to transform their congregation through faithful discipleship. Many churches have already committed to this initiative, and the opportunity is still available for you and your congregation.

As Moderator, I hope you will reach out to me if you have ideas for enhancing our Presbytery meetings. I will be happy to meet with your staff and/or your session throughout the year. Our congregations have a rich history in our communities and the opportunities for writing new stories are unlimited.

I look forward to meeting you personally and hearing stories of your visions for your congregation and community.

You can reach me through the Presbytery Office or at my personal email address, Melissa.king530@sbcglobal.net.

In Christ,


Melissa King Nelson