



Greetings in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ!

As my term as moderator comes to an end, I want you to know that I feel truly blessed to have had the opportunity to experience and witness all that you do. You graciously and steadfastly lead during a very divided and contentious time in our country's history. This current cultural climate has you reflecting strategically about your ministry and the Church. You are willing to get out of your box, actively figure out clever and creative ways to be relevant and analyze what is needed to invigorate your ministries. With compassion, love and hope you carry out everyday frontline servant leadership, nurturing God's children within and beyond the walls of our congregations.

This everyday ministry isn't the stuff that gets you published, wins awards or gets you featured on Friday night as the "person of the week." But perhaps it should. Your gifted insight into the hearts and minds of ordinary people is indeed extraordinary. Witnessing how you faithfully utilize and share your gifts has carved a path into my own faith journey.

I invite you to join me on **Saturday, February 9th** at First Presbytery Church of Olney for our next stated meeting of the Presbytery of Philadelphia. At 11:00 a.m., registration and three pre-presbytery conversations will begin. After enjoying lunch, our stated meeting will convene at 1:00 p.m. Our meaningful business docket will include a Celebration of the Saints and the installation of our new moderator and vice moderator. The meeting culminates with a powerful worship as seven voices guide us through a service of light in the darkness.

It is an honor to welcome the Reverend Dr. Diane Moffett, President and Executive Director of the Presbyterian Mission Agency as our keynote speaker. In addition to sharing her vision for the church at our presbytery meeting, the Rev. Dr. Moffett will also be preaching at the worship service celebrating Black History Month annually co-sponsored with the National Black Presbyterian Caucus, Philadelphia Chapter. I am very pleased to announce that both Ruth Santana-Grace and Kevin Porter have been named honorees this year. I hope you will be able to experience this worship celebration scheduled for Sunday, February 10th at Oxford Presbyterian, 3:00 p.m.

I see divine beauty in the every day simplicity and seemingly repetitive work that your servant leadership encompasses. I implore you to continue to remember whose you are, trust in God, and think about why you have been called to lead. Be yourself. Creative disruption will miss the mark and be just a gimmick unless we are able to fully appreciate and lift up being extraordinary at the everyday ordinary aspects of our calling.

In hope and with gratitude,

Linda Rutkosky, Moderator, Presbytery of Philadelphia