

ANNUAL MINISTRY NARRATIVE



PRESBYTERY *of* PHILADELPHIA

CHRIST'S WORK ♦ OUR WITNESS



MAY 2018 ♦ MAY 2019

A NOTE FROM OUR MODERATOR AND EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER



Let me first say what a wonderful blessing it was to work with our previous Moderator, Linda Rutkosky. We were all moved by her enthusiasm, her loving and compassionate spirit, and the great love she has for the Church. I give God thanks not only for her leadership, but also her friendship. I continue to be moved by all the

wonderful work being done in this Presbytery. Last year, 11 Covenant Fund grants were awarded to support mission initiatives throughout the Presbytery. The initiatives included everything from discipling and empowering vulnerable youth to collaborative efforts designed to alleviate homelessness. It is just a snippet of all the wonderful work our churches are doing as we live into our mission of being a Matthew 25 Presbytery.

One of the highlights of the past year for me was our first annual Fall Fest sponsored by the Ministry and Leadership Incubator. It was truly a blessing to see leaders throughout the Presbytery come together to share their special gifts and talents for the purpose of building up and equipping the Presbytery for mission. As we lean into the immediate future, I would like to highlight and build upon all the wonderful work being done, to share the love and light of God with everyone within our many communities.

I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to serve this wonderful presbytery as your Moderator. I look forward to working alongside our Vice Moderator, Vijay Aggarwal; our Executive Presbyter, Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace; and all of the rest of our excellent leadership and staff who have labored over the last several years, to make the Presbytery of Philadelphia a wonderful place for mission and service.

Rev. Randy Barge, Moderator



Building upon our legacy of faithfulness and courage, the past year has taken the Presbytery of Philadelphia on a pilgrimage strengthening our commitment to Christ's work in the multiple dimensions of our mission. As a people bound together by the arc of salvation history, understanding where we have been informs and shapes where we are going. Over the

past five years we have together worked to lay the foundation for the season before us – a season already begun – marked by our common resolve to serve together across our differences and embody the Gospel in the sacred spaces where we worship, so we might be agents of justice and reconciliation in the world, near and far.

We hope this annual report will serve to remind you that you are part of something far bigger than any one individual or community of faith. This narrative highlights the "story of us" as we bring together our gifts of talents and treasures in an effort to revitalize our witness. It is the "story of us" as we lean into the DNA of our identity as a Matthew 25 Presbytery – a people who offer food to the hungry, provide water to the thirsty, welcome the stranger, clothe the naked, care for the sick, and visit the imprisoned.

I am both humbled and thankful for the opportunity to journey with you. I am grateful for the leadership of our commissions and committees; of our past Moderator, Elder Linda Rutkosky; of our current Moderator and Vice Moderator, Rev. Randy Barge and Elder Vijay Aggarwal; along with the extraordinary staff at the presbytery office – Kevin, Greg, Steve, Cassie, Betsi, Luis, Andrea and our receptionists – Marilyn, Dolores and Ann. Your spirit and commitment help make the "impossible possible."

Peace,

Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Executive Presbyter



A NEW CONFESSIONAL LOGO

The Cross of Christ that Shapes Our Witness

We are excited to reveal a new confessional logo for our ministry together. The image is both simple and familiar, incorporating layers of sacred meaning related to our shared faith: the upward movement of the lower image speaks to God as **Creator**, who springs forth life and creative energy; the **cross** serves as the primary focus of the two shapes coming together at the center, a witness to the work of Christ and central call of our individual and corporate discipleship; the top image is in the form of a dove, an ancient symbol of the **Holy Spirit** who gathers and scatters the faithful for ministry in and for the world; the coming together of two separate images at a central point of light affirms the **biblical call to unity and reconciliation** in the midst of a world strained by division; **the colors** originated with imagery and art from our 300th anniversary, reminding us of our shared history and promised future; the blue is representative of the **sacrament of our baptism**; the earth-toned band around the logo's edges evokes the bread and the opening of the top right forms empty space in the shape of a cup, a testament to the **sacrament of Christ's table**. Finally, the image as a whole is rising, an abstract of the **resurrection** we proclaim and live into until all is made new and right again.

CHRIST'S WORK

"For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in."
(Matthew 25:35)

We give thanks for how God continues to move in and through the faithful of this presbytery and our 124 congregations, worshipping communities, and related ministries. As we worship and serve in neighborhoods throughout Greater Philadelphia- Bucks, Montgomery, Delaware, and Philadelphia Counties- we are reminded it is Christ's work that shapes our collective witness.

Over the last 12 months, we have continued to serve as a laboratory for teaching and equipping leaders. Our **Ministry and Leadership Incubator** has grown to include both institutional and congregational partnerships that tap into the many resources – human and financial – with which we are blessed.

Seminary Partnership

We continue to create opportunities for seminarians, in teams of two, to come alongside pastors in smaller urban and suburban churches to launch new or revitalize existing ministry efforts. These seminarians also meet monthly with presbytery staff and local practitioners to discuss topics of interest. Since 2015, we have partnered with 12 churches and 23 seminarians from Princeton Theological Seminary. We are in the process of potentially expanding to include two other local seminaries.

Leadership Training

Our intentional learning opportunities throughout the year included Elder Training, Ministry Innovation and Grant Writing Seminars, Financial Management Workshops, and Clerks' Round Table gatherings. Our pre-presbytery conversations offered seminars on emergency response, immigration, emerging church leadership, older adult ministry, creative ministry design, connections with the Presbyterian Historical Society, and more. We also launched our first presbytery-wide Fall Fest, featuring presbytery leaders who engaged ten timely topics from preaching to entrepreneurialism to understanding the Enneagram. More than 100 leaders participated.

Ecumenical Partnership

With the Evangelical Lutheran Church of America (ELCA), we sponsored our second event to discuss strategies that respond to the current and ever-changing church and world. This year we hosted Rev. Dr. Tod Bolsinger, author of *Canoeing the Mountains*, and brought together more than 200 participants for an equipping event.

Courageous Conversations

Through regional leadership, we have continued to sponsor conversations on race, bias, privilege, and immigration. We have participated formally with partners such as Crossroads and Coming to the Table in their efforts to address and dismantle systemic racism in our local communities.

While continuing to invest throughout the regions of our presbytery, we creatively strengthened **two critical and strategic urban witnesses** throughout the Greater Philadelphia area:

West Philadelphia Presbyterian Partnership

In a historic act of boldness, three congregations in West Philadelphia "left their buildings" to become one. This replanting of a vibrant worshipping community builds upon the courage and spirit of the first and early African-American Presbyterian witness in our nation. Worshipping together at a community center, a full-time pastor is joining them this summer as they formalize their relationship and consider the nature of a permanent worship venue.

Chester Residency

The congregational partnership between T.M. Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church in Chester and the **PCUSA 1001 New Worshipping Communities Residency Program** is nurturing compassion in their community through the gathering of caregivers. This ministry initiative brings together vulnerable yet venerable residents of their community to support one another, birth new possibilities to extend love of neighbor, and explore creative ways to worship together.

Congregational Vitality

We have intentionally engaged with many of our congregations to renew their witness, committed to congregational vitality through grant dollars, ecumenical joint witnesses, and the creative use of ecclesiastical structures.

Through **Covenant Funds and Great Ends Grants**, the **Commission on Resources and Communications** distributed nearly \$120,000 to more than 30 initiatives addressing hunger, homelessness, addiction, poverty, gun violence, youth leadership training, new worshipping community start-ups, anti-racism trainings, mentoring programs, urban gardens, church revitalization, and more. Through the **Commission on Financial Management**, more than \$100,000 in capital grants was also provided to assist with buildings and infrastructure in an effort to alleviate financial stresses that might shift congregational focus away from mission.

Since last year, we have strengthened our partnership with our denomination's **1001 New Worshipping Communities movement**. We have endorsed seed grant applications, supported residency programs, and participated in coaching networks to leverage new neighborhood ministries alongside outside-the-box dreamers. We hope to build on this resource as we explore church plants throughout our presbytery.

OUR WITNESS

“I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me” (Matthew 25:36).

This past year also hinged on **General Assembly** in St. Louis, where we sent eight commissioners, one Young Adult Advisory Delegate, and one Theological Student Advisory Delegate alongside numerous others from the Presbytery, to participate in the work of our national church. On the other side, this summer we hope to send over 40 youth to the **Presbyterian Youth Triennium** for a week of fellowship, Bible study, worship, and engagement with approximately 5,000 youth from around the globe.

Broadening the historic understanding of Administrative Commissions (ACs) as vehicles for discipline, we have **retooled ACs for creative resourcing of congregations seeking a new way forward**. A recent AC has been formed to replant a congregation in Wissahickon in partnership with the leadership of Roxborough Presbyterian Church. We have also empowered **Care Teams** to come alongside congregations while walking through challenging seasons. These teams - typically made up of members of the **Commission on Ministry** and **Commission on Financial Management** - allow for focused conversation, understanding, and strategy.

We have been blessed by new leadership who have joined our Presbytery to serve in various congregations and ministries among us. As they shepherd this process, our **Commission on Preparation for Ministry and Membership** has received 11 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and journeyed with 37 inquirers and candidates in their discernment.

Ministry across Cultures and Languages

The reality of **new arrivals and immigrant ministries** remains a growing edge for our Presbytery. In response, we continue to support ministries where the culture of heart comes from another nation and the primary spoken language spoken is not English. This past year, we celebrated the expansion of our Korean witness by ordaining a pastor who, as Coordinator for Education and Evangelism, equips the next generation across all our Korean congregations. Our **Leadership Collegium** also approved financial support for the one Spanish-language congregation in our presbytery as they faithfully witness amidst challenges of economics, language, and immigration concerns. Our African, Pakistani, and Japanese congregations also continue to offer critical ministries and presence to those they serve.

Our local **Committee for the Self-Development of People (SDOP)** is currently in a season of revitalization, with a long history of supporting community-based organizations in their response to issues of oppression and marginalization of our most vulnerable neighbors. SDOP distributes at least \$16,000 annually from funds received through One Great Hour of Sharing.

Aware our witness extends to **non-congregational contexts**, we partner with organizations that faithfully serve the larger community and work to bring justice and peace. We continue to maintain a heart-print on **urban community ministries** committed to children and youth in places where the cultural message is one of despair. Our contributions make us partners of hope with **West Kensington Ministry, Chester Eastside, Inc., John Gloucester House, and The Welcome Church**.

In partnership with Lehigh Presbytery, our renewed commitment to Christian camping alongside **Kirkwood Camp** allows us to provide a safe, faith-based outdoor experience for **children and youth**. What began as a distant possibility for two presbyteries has grown into a healthy collaboration. Their creative curriculum and new leadership has breathed vibrant life into this ministry.

In addition to an annual gathering, we continue to work closely with our African-American leadership of the **Philadelphia Chapter of the National Black Presbyterian Caucus** to respond to unique challenges and possibilities of our African-American congregations. Our **Presbyterian Women (PW)** chapter continues to be a source of discipleship, fellowship, and mission. Our local PW is committed to alleviating local hunger by providing a liaison to work with 18 Care Closets in our congregations.

Recognizing many of our congregations share geographic proximity with other denominations, we are actively engaged with the Reformed Church in America and the United Church of Christ in **creating intentional, joint ecumenical witnesses**. This effort will revitalize and strengthen congregational presence in strategic locations.

Finally, committed to engaging our interfaith neighbors, members of our presbytery and staff participate in initiatives of the **Interfaith Council of Philadelphia**, which brings together more than 30 member communities representing more than 2 million people of diverse religious traditions. The Religious Leaders Council even recently designated Chester Eastside, Inc. as a Zone of Peace.

As we lean into the year ahead, we trust the same God who has guided us these past 12 months will go before us still. May all we do be in response to Christ's invitation to love and serve all, especially those labeled least and last among us.

LIVING INTO HOPE

"Very truly, I tell you, the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do and, in fact, will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father." (John 14:12)

Distributing Grants to New and Revitalized Ministries

11 Covenant Fund Awards: \$100,000 distributed to spark new and collaborative ministries that benefit the communities surrounding our churches.

12 Great Ends Grants: \$18,487 to leverage care and compassion, ministry leadership development, peacemaking and advocacy, and youth leadership initiatives.

\$232K Reserve for New Initiatives: restricted funds distributed to empower innovative approaches to ministry in our suburban, urban, and rural neighborhoods.

Exploring New Worshipping Communities

3:1 West Philadelphia Presbyterian Partnership: Three congregations coming together as one to replant a vibrant worshipping community and build upon the first African-American Presbyterian witness in our nation.

1 Chester Residency: Collaborating with 1001 New Worshipping Communities and T.M. Thomas Memorial Presbyterian Church to launch ministry alongside caregivers.

2 Seed Grant Applications to Presbyterian Mission Agency: to support new worshipping communities alongside women experiencing homelessness in Philadelphia (The Well/Welcome Church) and younger adults in Conshohocken (Church on the Mall).

Empowering the Faithful through the Ministry and Leadership Incubator

23 Since 2015, 23 seminarians have served 12 of our churches in our ministry innovation and revitalization program.

104 participated in first annual Fall Fest ministry and leadership equipping event.

200+ Gathered for *Canoeing the Mountains*, an ecumenical equipping event in partnership with the local Lutheran Synod (ELCA).



MATTHEW 25
PRESBYTERIAN MISSION AGENCY

Join us in our commitment as a Matthew 25 Presbytery by becoming a Matthew 25 Church. Building on more than 300 years of faithfulness and courage, the past five years of our journey as a presbytery have reflected our commitment to the Biblical values expressed in Matthew 25. We have embraced our primary responsibility in coming alongside our churches and their leaders so they might be incarnational agents of transformation in the world – manifesting the hands, feet and heart of Christ as we act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor throughout Greater Philadelphia. Look for more details about our commitment with the Presbyterian Mission Agency.

<https://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/matthew-25/>

LEADING IN COVENANTAL COMMUNITY

“For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another” (Romans 12:4-5).

We give thanks for the work and witness of those who serve on our commissions and committees as faithful extensions of our Presbytery’s **Leadership Collegium**. Our collective work continues to affirm our ecclesiastical commitment to nurture the covenant community of disciples of Jesus Christ among us.



OFFICE OF THE STATED CLERK

4 Stated Meetings of the Presbytery: January, May, July, and November

183 Average attendance at Presbytery meetings



COMMITTEE ON BILLS & OVERTURES

8 Presbytery of Philadelphia Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly

1 Young Adult Advisory Delegate

1 Theological Student Advisory Delegate

www.presbyphl.org/general-assembly-commissioners-blog



COMMISSION ON MINISTRY

5 Care Teams to walk alongside congregations in seasons of change, adaptation, and creative exploration

17 Administrative Commissions to support our congregations in creative resources and judicial challenges



COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY & MEMBERSHIP

30 Under Care as they discern a call to Ministry of Word and Sacrament

11 Minister Members Received to use their gifts for ministry within our bounds

13 Ordinations and Installations



COMMISSION ON RESOURCES & COMMUNICATIONS

23 Covenant Fund and Great Ends Grants collectively distributed for new and existing ministry efforts

30 participants in our annual ministry innovation equipping



COMMISSION ON FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

12 Churches awarded grants totaling \$112,580 through the Capital Fund

6 Loans and Presbyterian Investment & Loan Program guarantees approved totaling over \$1.5 million for capital purposes

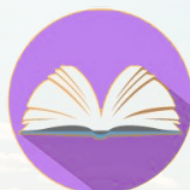


COMMITTEE ON REPRESENTATION

Assists the church in giving “full expression to the rich diversity of the church’s membership and shall provide for full participation and access to representation in decision-making and employment practices” (*Book of Order F-1.0403*).

32% of our Presbytery’s leadership self-identify as people of color. Over the last four years our statistical report has continued to trend upwards in inclusion.

22% of our Presbytery’s leadership are under the age of 45 and we continue to trend upwards with significant room for growth.



FROM THE BOOK OF ORDER OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

“The presbytery is responsible for the government of the church throughout its district, and for supporting the witness of congregations to the sovereignty of God in the world, so that all congregations become communities of faith hope, love, and witness” (G-3.0301)

PRESBYTERY OF PHILADELPHIA LEADERSHIP

Leadership Collegium (2018): The Leadership Collegium consists of the moderator and vice moderator of the Presbytery, moderators of all commissions, moderator of the Committee on Representation, and executive staff of the Presbytery (ex officio).

Rev. Randy Barge (Moderator), Elder Vijay Aggarwal (Vice-Moderator), Elder Michael Henry (CFM), Rev. Samantha Hudson (COM), Elder Alice Hughes (NE Convener), Rev. Adan Mairena (CRC), Elder Wanda Tanner-McNeill (COR), Rev. Cheryl Pyrch (NW Convener), Elder Roland Reeves (SE Convener), Rev. Kenneth Ross (CPMM), Rev. Todd Stavrakos (SW Convener). Executive Staff: Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Rev. Kevin Porter, Rev. Greg Klimovitz, Stephen King.



Rev. Randy Barge, 2019 Moderator, 2018 Vice-Moderator; Elder Vijay Aggarwal, 2019 Vice-Moderator; Elder Linda Rutkosky, 2018 Moderator



Executive Staff (from right to left): Rev. Ruth Faith Santana-Grace, Executive Presbyter; Rev. Greg Klimovitz, Associate Presbyter; Rev. Kevin Porter, Stated Clerk; Stephen King, Business Administrator

223rd General Assembly Commissioners

Rev. Christopher Holland (New Spirit)
Rev. Byungil Kim (Podowon)
Rev. Dr. Janel Dixon (Cedar Park)
Rev. Casey Thompson (Wayne)
Elder Jim Ballengee (Arch Street)
Elder Contina Lee Lundy (1st Germantown)
Elder Ron Cronise (Thompson Memorial)
Elder Zandra Maffett (Valley Forge)
YAAD: Madeline Taylor (Ardmore)
TSAD: Brian Ballard (Wayne)

Synod of the Trinity Commissioners

Rev. Dr. Jade King Bass (Member-at-Large),
Elder Elaine McCray (Holy Trinity-Bethlehem),
Elder Barbara Adams-Smelter (Calvin),
Rev. Joseph I. Steele (Honorably Retired)

Regional Commissions

Northwest Region
Convener: Rev. Cheryl Pyrch (Summit)
Northeast Region
Convener: Elder Alice Hughes (Newtown)
Southwest Region
Convener: Rev. Todd Stavrakos (Gladwyne)
Southeast Region
Convener: Elder Roland Reeves (Trinity-Kensington)

Commissions of the Presbytery

Commission on Ministry (COM)
Moderator: Rev. Samantha Hudson (Glading)

Commission on Preparation for Ministry and Membership (CPMM)
Moderator: Rev. Kenneth Ross (Member-at-Large)

Commission on Resources and Communications (CRC)
Moderator: Rev. Adan Mairena (Yeadon)

Commission on Financial Management (CFM)
Moderator: Elder Michael Henry (Valley Forge)

Committees of the Presbytery

Committee on Nominations
Moderator: Elder Bob Kenworthy (Wallingford)

Committee on Personnel
Moderator: Rev. Ryan Balsan (1st Ambler)

Committee on Bills and Overtures
Convener: Elder Michael Henry, 2018 (Valley Forge); Elder Jim Ballengee, 2019 (Arch Street)

Committee on Representation
Moderator: Elder Wanda Tanner-McNeill, 2018 (Oxford); Elder Megan Acedo, 2019 (Beacon)

Self-Development of People Committee
Moderator: Elder Lois Hayman-El, 2018 (First African); Rev. Todd Stavrakos, 2019 (Gladwyne)

Kirkwood Camp

Director: Tommy Campbell
Co-Moderators: Rev. Dr. W. Carter Lester, Jr. (Pottstown), Elder Diane Millick (Lehigh Presbytery)

Presbyterian Women, Philadelphia

Moderator: Elder Maureen Prillerman (Germantown Community)

National Black Presbyterian Caucus

Co-Moderators: Rev. Ethelyn Taylor (Oxford) and Rev. Dr. Janel Dixon (Cedar Park)



PRESBYTERY of PHILADELPHIA

CHRIST'S WORK ♦ OUR WITNESS

FINANCIAL STEWARDSHIP ♦ CALENDAR YEAR 2018

FUNDS AVAILABLE

Received from Congregations: \$1,583,000

Basic & Directed Mission Giving: \$733,000

Per Capita Apportionment: \$673,000

Special Offerings: \$177,000

Other Funding Sources: \$891,000

Investment Income: \$415,000

Restricted Funds (net): \$476,000

**TOTAL FUNDS
AVAILABLE
\$2,474,000**

*We give thanks for your generous
contributions to the mission and ministry
of the Presbytery of Philadelphia!*



FUNDS DISTRIBUTED

Synod of the Trinity: \$69,000

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.): \$459,000*

*includes the Presbyterian Mission Agency & Office of the General Assembly

Presbytery Operating Budget Expenses: \$1,224,000

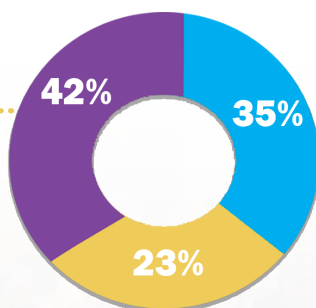
Presbytery Grants: \$480,000

Directed Giving: \$184,000

Loans to Churches: \$58,000

OPERATING BUDGET

Planned Expenses for 2019: \$1,216,000



MISSION & MINISTRY
FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION
ECCLESIASTICAL & PASTORAL

Community Ministries & Christian Camping: \$135,000

- Chester Eastside, Inc.
- Kirkwood Camp
- John Gloucester House
- West Kensington Ministry
- Central Presbyterian Church
- The Welcome Church

DONATE ONLINE:

presbyphl.org/donation-opportunities/

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