

Missional Presbyter Report for New Castle Presbytery
Tracy Keenan – September 20, 2022

At the risk of stating the obvious, it's important to us to connect with pastors and churches across our presbytery, both in our clustered northern area as well as our more scattered southern region. Preaching, attending session meetings, having lunch or coffee with pastors and elders: this is how we learn much of what's happening, what support might be needed, where encouragement would help.

Since our May meeting...

Church and Regional Visits

I preached at Head of Christiana, Trinity, New Castle, Calvary, Seaford, Dover, and Easton; brought greetings to Westminster-Rehoboth, attended installation at Red Clay Creek, attended Montgomery trip presentation at Chestertown, went to crab feast at Old Rehoboth.

I attended Calvary's session to share Vital Congregations information and Lower Brandywine's session to hear their report from Holy Cow Consulting.

I attended most of the monthly Makemieland lunches, including a boat trip to Smith Island for some real Smith Island cake and lots of laughter.

Mid Council Connections

AMCL (Association of Mid Council Leaders) Steering Committee, AMCL Montgomery Pilgrimage Planning Team, Synod gathering at Massaneta Springs.

General Assembly Preparation

There was lots of training for GA committee on Mid-Councils. I went to Louisville for the first week of committee meetings in June to be the connection between OGA staff and our committee members, and to help put together our report to the General Assembly. It was wonderful to connect with lots of friends and colleagues from over the years and to experience the marvel of the newly renovated Presbytery Center with its meeting rooms designed for hybrid meetings. The denominational staff were responsive and reassuring as we all embarked on this hybrid committee and assembly work for a historic GA. It was a joy to see our church work writ large and with passion.

One huge highlight was the litany of repentance our white siblings spoke aloud to our BIPOC siblings – a raw, powerful experience that allowed important truth to be spoken aloud in the context of worship. That litany is available to any of us to use in our own contexts.

Other Special Work

I continued attending webinars for Vital Congregations information, training, visioning and consultations. Shaping this to our specific needs in New Castle Presbytery is involving lots of research, conversations, prayer, and energy.

Lumos campus ministry steering committee is engaged in visioning and dreaming, and we are reaching out to ecumenical colleagues to see how we might be able to dream even "bigger."

Brainstorming with various pastors to envision digital community and how that could work brought me to the Edgemoor Community Center to see where our videos for Ignite were created.

I represented NCP on a panel discussion on voting to influence climate change legislation.

Continuing Education

Webinar on church conflict

Personal

I returned to Pittsburgh twice: once to officiate at the memorial service of a beloved colleague, and again to officiate at a wedding.