

October 10, 2022

To: The Personnel Committee and the Presbytery Leadership Cabinet

From: George Goodrich

Re: Sabbatical Report, June, 2022 – September, 2022; and Report for LC October Meeting

My sincere and grateful thanks for the gift of our sabbatical from May through September, 2022, allowing for the two weeks we served in July. *And my great gratitude to all who, in continuing to serve while we were gone, made it possible!*

You sent me on sabbatical to rest and recover my health; to seek spiritual refreshment; and to wrestle with my sense of call as Co-General Presbyter into the future... By these conditions, the sabbatical was very helpful.

Rest and Physical Recovery: I worked with my doctors to explore nutritional resources for strengthening my body... And I gave myself permission to nap when I felt like it. I tried to get some good physical exercise every day... And, although Covid caught up with us in August for the second time, I have recovered well and am generally gaining strength and running again.

Spiritual Refreshment: I daily pursued the spiritual disciplines of personal study and prayer; I participated in a couple on-line retreats offered by the team of people with whom I studied for spiritual direction, 2013-2015; We attended a variety of Church Worship Services in person and on-line. And although we had hoped to get away for a spiritual retreat of some duration, Kathy's Mom moving in with us in May, and several crises in her life and flooded home made such a retreat difficult to make, although we did get four days away by ourselves to celebrate our 45th anniversary. In addition, we were blessed by the rhythms of Sabbath, and intend to both practice and hold up the keeping of the weekly discipline for all of us.

Major Contribution to Presbytery during sabbatical: Organizing the Lay Pastoral Care Training events for the fall, 2022 and winter, 2023. Excited here! 27 lay and clergy leaders have signed up for this month training. In addition, I joined the team of Daniel Triller, May Grace Reynolds and Kimmy Stokesbury-Briggs to help lead our highly successful presbytery camp week at the Rotary Club Camp on Highlight Lake, as access to the Presbytery Camp at Westminster Spires was washed out by the flood of June 13.

Clarity for my Sense of Call: The sabbatical time away was helpful here... And I now believe that the time is coming for me to retire from my calling as Co-General Presbyter as of March 31, 2023. While I still love elements of the call, such as preaching, spiritual direction, the collegial relationships, and the people in the Yellowstone Churches, I will be 70 years old in February, 2023. So after 18 years and helping in over 40 pastoral transitions, countless session meetings and thousands of miles, I believe it is time for me to retirement. My hope

would be to continue to offer my gifts to the presbytery and its churches, perhaps in pulpit supply and in equipping leaders, perhaps interim pastoring and in companioning/spiritual with interested pastors and church leaders. And as the leadership of the presbytery might request. In other words to serve as any other retired pastor might serve.

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Family and Personal Concerns: First, my 94-year-old Mother passed on August 16. She was ready and I thought I was for her to die. But I find myself adjusting to grief and the new reality of our relationship. Second, our sabbatical was further encumbered by the on-going, in-home care of Kathy's aged mother, a serious challenge some of you have met in your own lives. Prayers and understanding appreciated!

Since Sabbatical: We have met with all the presbytery team leaders, some several times to receive their updates and guidance as we return to the call. We have met with Karolee Larson, FPC-Bozeman's Senior Intern and worshiped there as she preached. We launched the first of the enthusiastically received Lay Pastoral Care. Please ask me about this...

Again, my profound thanks for the sabbatical season!

George Goodrich