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Report of Transitional Executive Leader  
Stated Meeting, November 10, 2020  
Reverend Gail C. Doering

We are at the eight -month mark and so little has been predictable or as expected, other than change. Among the unpredictable are a global pandemic, a national uprising, political tumult and an almost daily “SURPRISE!” in our news. All that being said, I remain confident in the power of God’s grace to see us through and the resilience of a people of faith to respond in ways that seem impossible and improbably. This is what I have witnessed in large and small ways in my first months here.

When Covid-19 broke and behaviors were adjusted, it seemed this might be a short-lived event, but now, we recognize the uncertainty of timeframe and must adjust our expectations. Furthermore, those in our Presbytery have a variety of responses to the variety of recommendations received. One of the major concerns I have had to address is this, “how does one work with a group that is already divided by a far-reaching geography, now further challenged by new modes of communications and ways of gathering?”

The day to day work gets done as we have evidenced by various committee meetings and our first successful Presbytery meeting in August. The more challenging question that I keep coming to is “how do we address questions of systemic change, growth and organizational transformation over these new mediums”?

To begin to address this question, I am going to do several things over the next few months:

1. Contact a number of you and others across the Presbytery to ask some key questions as to your past experiences and future visions/dreams
2. Study leave Nov. 14-23 to do some reading, writing and reflecting of observations thus far as well as what spiritual and organizational tools we might employ to move forward
3. Keep asking the questions and observing what others are doing in the church and across all disciplines – remaining a constant learner

In the meantime, there is also the day to day. Staffing the ongoing committees, moderating, visiting churches, showing up where needed or invited and representing this body to the larger church via Synod and GA gatherings.

This has been a wonderfully engaging and stimulating time, but also can be lonely. I am one person and you are many. PLEASE reach out as you are able and have ideas or questions or just want to engage because I fully believe this is a two way street and also a time for us not to be more isolated, but instead to become more and more in connection and communion with one another.

In faith, trust and love of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
Gail