

*The Mission of the Presbytery of Santa Barbara:  
We, the PCUSA churches and ministries of Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo  
counties, join together to foster vibrant worshipping communities who proclaim and live out the  
love of Jesus Christ for one another and our neighbors*

May 6, 2019

I hope that you will join me on May 18<sup>th</sup> at Community Presbyterian Church in Pismo Beach for our Presbytery meeting. We will once again gather to worship together and do the business of our church community.

While every Presbytery meeting is an important opportunity to gather and practice our faith, this one is particularly meaningful for me. At this meeting, we will be voting in our next group of leaders, including our next Moderator. With that in mind, I wanted to share some of the things you have taught me in the last year.

From you, I have learned that a larger faith community matters. While my local church family sustains me, gathering together in a larger group is another level of nourishment. While we are all Presbyterians, we differ in a variety of ways yet remain united in an overarching faith. We can disagree, we can discuss, we can vote differently. And then we worship together sharing our faith - a model badly needed in our current times.

And our Presbytery is strong. In every area of our broader community, dedicated individuals are quietly working together, sharing ideas, and attending sometimes-too-long meetings. They do all of this in an effort to build a larger vibrant worshipping community that supports all of us. Because we are our Presbytery and our Presbytery is us.

I am so grateful to everyone I have met this past year. As is so often the case, I have gained so much more than I have given. Thank you for the opportunity to serve in this way.

Let me leave you with this thought. Take some time to consider your next opportunity to serve the Presbytery. Many committees are looking for new members. If it's been awhile since you served, or if you have not yet served, please think about it. We grow with every new participant, every new idea. And, based on my experience, you will not regret it.

I look forward to seeing you!

Blessings,

Tamara Skov  
Moderator