



PRESBYTERY of SANTA BARBARA

September 8, 2021

Greetings Santa Barbara Presbytery,

Check out this thought from Eugene Peterson:

“The way of Jesus cannot be imposed or mapped — it requires an active participation in following Jesus as he leads us through sometimes strange and unfamiliar territory, in circumstances that become clear only in the hesitations and questionings, in the pauses and reflections where we engage in prayerful conversation with one another and with him.” — Eugene H. Peterson, [*The Jesus Way: A Conversation on the Ways That Jesus Is the Way*](#)

As Presbyterians, we are trained in doing things decently and in order. I like that about our church. I also realize that we need order because chaos and mess are part of this broken world. I am grateful that we get to follow Jesus together in the midst of “hesitations and questionings” and “in the pauses and reflections.”

On Saturday, Sept. 18th we are going to continue that process of following Jesus together at our Presbytery Meeting. We will meet on Zoom as we continue to discover how God works through the technology of our season.

Here are a couple of highlights:

- We will welcome and install Ruling Elder Lee Kirkpatrick as Presbytery Moderator.
- Rev. Garrett Andrew, pastor in Nipomo, (a powerful preacher) will serve up our meditation in worship.
- We will consider setting aside \$50,000 for a Presbytery Revitalization Grant Program for our churches and ministries.
- We will consider a recommendation from Presbytery Council to approve a job description for a ¾ time Designated General Presbyter position.
- You’ll be asked to consider an alternative motion from some commissioners to pause the process of finding a Designated General Presbyter in order to have more discussion on different options.
- You’ll also hear from the many committees that are actively working to serve our churches through training and leadership.

And so much more.....we are going to have a great meeting – make every effort to join us.

I hope you’ll take time to read through the packet to get up to speed on what will be happening. I look forward to continuing our process of discernment on behalf of how to fulfill the stated vision and mission of our Presbytery – creating vibrant worshipping communities.

Take care and God bless,

Tom
Rev. Tom Stephen
Moderator, Presbytery of Santa Barbara