

A Message from the Moderator

Carson Brown

We are thrilled to be gathering together soon at Burnt Store Presbyterian Church in Punta Gorda for our May stated meeting. If I may, please allow me a moment to express my excitement about the theme for the day.

We are each uniquely aware that since September, our community has been working to recover from Hurricane Ian, the effects of which remain present on us physically, mentally, and spiritually. Our Presbytery has navigated through this exceptionally difficult time thanks to the support of our congregations, pastors, and members, as well as the generous aid of our fellow presbyters across the state of Florida and our denomination. For the past several months, Melana has been highlighting the support offered by different congregations from far beyond our bounds.

On May 18, we will have the distinct honor of welcoming two of these incredible leaders. The Reverend Daris Bultena, General Presbyter and Stated Clerk of Tropical Florida Presbytery, will be present to bring greetings from our siblings on the East Coast as well as to receive our thanks for their extraordinary financial support. Additionally, the new Synod Executive and Stated Clerk of the Synod of South Atlantic, Valerie Young, will be among us to recognize our recovery since September and acknowledge the long road several of our churches still have before them. Valerie will deliver the keynote address after lunch.

There are many other reasons to join us for this exciting meeting. Our General Presbyter, Melana Scruggs, will lead our worship service and deliver the message - her first time doing so - and will preach on Romans 12, the promise found in community. Alongside our special guests, we look forward to celebrating the distinctive tapestry of church families that tether us together and to a larger hope. Before lunch, a new video highlighting the beauty of this connectionalism will be debuted by the Communication, Connection, and Community Team, and will help mark our Presbytery's growing commitment to being at the forefront of multimedia ministry.

Worship, fellowship, business, and gathering are made more special by your presence. We encourage all church leaders and members to attend; this will be an ideal meeting for newer elders seeking to learn more about the work of our Presbytery, and for all who enjoy appreciating, nurturing, and living into the special community we have in ministry and mission.

We can't wait to see you soon!