

June 6, 2019



Dear Ones in Christ,

The last few months your Leadership Council has been reading Ted Bolsinger's "Canoeing the Mountains". Although many had read it within the context of their local congregations they are now reading it with the lens of the Presbytery.

The gist of the text, if you've not had a chance to pick it up (oh, and do *please* pick it up!), is that navigating the future of congregations is akin to what Lewis and Clark encountered as they set forward searching for the Northwest Passage. The name of the book is a playful take on the very real consequences of what happens when we pack our bags for what we expect to encounter... and then find ourselves faced with a different reality altogether.

It's like that time you show up to your spouse's work party wearing a pretty day dress only to find everyone there is in tuxes and gowns.

(Only me? Okay. Moving on...)

I think the experience of discovering a great unknown is a universal one. What is not universal is how to lead others through the unknown. What groundwork is necessary to make that journey? What is needed in order to have the courage to put aside canoes that have been dearly bought but are now obviously more a hindrance than a help in reaching the other side? What can leadership say... more importantly, what actions might leadership take to prevent the decision by the body to stay right where they are?

It's been good conversation, but what will be most interesting is where the conversation takes us. As we face significant changes in our communities, our churches and our Presbytery, what becomes clear is our need to become more adaptive... not for our own sake or safety, but for the sake of the Gospel.

Blessings –

Karen