



November 7, 2019

Greetings,

Champions! As a follow up from my previous talk on Wins. For us Nationals fans, Champions! Championship happens from work, play, endurance, working and playing with a team who are willing to go the extra mile or inning! Give thanks to yourself for the hard play and work you do. Give thanks to the team you work and play hard with! And give thanks to the Triune God who is always present in the endurance of it all!!!!

In the past two weeks, the office of Congregational Development and Mission, my office, has been with congregations or has sent others to be with congregations and leaders in areas of ***Prophetic ministry***! Great questions are being asked like:



How are we to be prophetic when we do not want to offend any of our members?

This question is two steps ahead of where I suggest we can start. 1. What images and voices come to mind when you hear me say, prophetic ministry? 2. How do you define or understand what it means to be prophetic as a congregation? What are the assumptions we have about “being prophetic”? In answering each of these questions the community gets to wrestle and embrace the words, callings and cries of the Prophets in our Bible along with any contemporary images they hold. In this listening we tend to find out that we each still have some prophetic work to do. The assumptions point each of us back to ourselves and to our congregations.

A mantra from Coaching training is that we are CREATIVE, RESOURCEFUL, and WHOLE! Heck yeah, we are. We are created in God’s Image! In these moments of digging deeper in our prophetic dispositions I am witnessing congregational leadership stepping up to connect with others in our presbytery and in their communities. Consider a revival in these relationships! I am witnessing a congregation beginning their week as being a homeless shelter at Good Samaritan. The opportunity I see is to connect other congregations in our presbytery who know they want to be about this prophetic ministry but are concerned about the nay sayers. Before anyone can answer this concern, it is best to learn from others. The first question is how do you deal, stand, even lead in the midst of the tension?

This is a spiritual disposition of Prophetic ministry. I hope that you can join others in NCP who will be gathering this Saturday at Sargent Memorial Presbyterian Church for Leadership Training (registration is within this TM). You can take sessions that will continue to support and equip your congregations so that we can be grounded and active into ***Missional, Pastoral, and Prophetic*** ministry. We can connect into similar questions and find partnerships that we can learn from. Communities want to know if we can serve, stand, and do a bit more than show up. We do! We can even hold the space for tension so that when they ask, why, we share how Jesus teaches us and shows us how to live prophetically. See you on the prophetic playing field!

Peace and Courage, Tara