



Greetings!

The first month of the year is interesting. We spend our time reflecting on and closing out last year while getting excited about the possibilities of the year we are starting. Don't believe me? The evidence is in what is consuming our time right now: budgets, annual meetings, officer trainings, and statistical reports. One foot still in 2023 as 2024 gains momentum. If I'm honest, that 2024 momentum is what propels me to finish up 2023!

One of the things I am excited about is our **Annual Continuing Education Retreat**. The theme this year of **"Leading With Imagination: Flexing Your Ordination Vows"** feels relevant for the moment so many in our congregations are facing. Our pews and our budgets repeatedly tell us that we can't keep doing business as usual – but we haven't all figured out exactly what that means for our specific ministry context. We've been busy planning a retreat that will equip you and your leaders for today and tomorrow and I'm specifically excited about two conversations our staff will be inviting attendees to participate in:

Property: Facing What We Don't Say Out Loud with Imagination and Love

This Fireside Chat provides an opportunity for honest dialogue around congregational properties. If you think this is another invitation to explore redevelopment, you're wrong. We'll be examining the tenants that hold up our properties and how imagination and our call to love our neighbor can shape the future.

Flexing Intelligence and Energy: Responding to the Volunteer Leadership Crisis

This Fireside Chat explores the implications of the volunteer shortage. How do we respond to a lack of people volunteering for our Sessions and Committees? What are the implications? We don't have the answers, but we invite you to flex your intelligence and energy by joining us in the conversation that impacts our denomination at all levels.

These topics are important, and they intersect with each other. I can't think of a single congregation in our Presbytery who doesn't have something to contribute to the dialogue. We are genuinely excited to engage with you around them! I hope you'll join us at these fireside chats taking place at the **NCP Continuing Education Retreat, March 11 – 13!** Registration is open: [NCP Events | National Capital Presbytery \(thepresbytery.org\)](#)

Blessings,

Heather