



Greetings Friends!

It was wonderful to see many of you at our NCP Gathering on the 24<sup>th</sup> to learn more about how we can align our spending with our priorities. I heard from many of you how much you appreciated the practical tools that were distributed as well as the opportunity to gather with others similarly live out their calls to ministry. We heard you and we are working on ways to increase those opportunities – stay tuned!

For those of you who weren't able to join us, we began our day by reflecting on Hebrews 11:1-3 and 12:1

*“Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen. Indeed, by faith our ancestors received approval. By faith we understand that the worlds were prepared by the word of God, so that what is seen was made from things that are not visible... Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us.”*

We gather in our sanctuaries, don our choir robes, prepare for coffee hours, and hang out our banners – all in the name of Christ because a group of people at some time in the past, answered a call to be a witness in a very specific location. They built a building and evangelized a community. They gave their time and their talents and their treasures so that the message of Christ would be lived out here and now. We are no different today. The issues they faced then seemed as big to them as the issues we face today seem to us. And yet, here we are. Because of them, here we are. That is the legacy of faith that we are connected to and invited to actively participate in. And so, we are bound by that legacy to consider our response; to reflect on how our response ensures the legacy continues for those that come behind us.

I invite you to consider that rising to the challenges of today requires us to boldly ignite our Presbyterian superpower: connectivity. We all activate and respond to our connectivity in different ways. For me, I am a numbers junkie. Show me the money! Show me the numbers! Show me the data! When I can see the patterns, I feel better equipped to organize a response.

In Tara's letter, she reminded us that one tool we have to help us tap into our connectivity is the CAT. Because of your overwhelming participation, the data allows us to see patterns of need in our congregations and our programming is responding! How many of you saw the names of the sessions Tara introduced and thought, wow, that feels like something we need? Because it is! Your participation in this tool connects you to each other and provisions for the resources you need!

Now we need to take it a step further. As a Presbytery, we are inviting YOU as a participant in the life of National Capital Presbytery to take the NCP CAT aka the ***Landscape Survey*** ([Link Here](#)). Your participation allows us to have the same data and insight you received through your congregational CAT but on a Presbytery level.

**Participating in these tools, attending these offerings are a faithful response to our legacy of faith and ways to benefit from and harness the power of our connectivity.** Over 2024 we will continue to press you to consider ways to keep doing this. I'm convinced that we have everything we need to meet the challenges of today AND provision for tomorrow!

Blessings,

Heather