



Greetings People,

“What does it mean to be WELCOMING?” This was asked by a youth leader at Silver Spring Presbyterian Church to her whole congregation. She began to reflect upon what this particular question meant to her as she attended a workshop at Keep Awake Youth Conference in Massanetta Springs Camp and Conference Center in November. She followed up with a deeper question, “Are we always welcomed?”

The impact of her naming, are we always welcomed, to her whole congregation caught my breath. I have not poked, yet, but I immediately caught the multi level ask in her question: as a youth in her church, as a young person in her daily grind of school and peers, as a young woman in the world today, as a brown skinned woman in the world today, as a 2nd generation immigrant in the United States today, as a Christian in the world today....

To be seen, heard, and known as the Lord our God knows us. This is humbling and can support each of us to be humbled as we will encounter uncomfortable welcoming situations, discussions, and opportunities this year. Being humbled by my own dis-comfort is a breath invitation to be closer with my God and ask for direction. This particular youth leaned directly into what she sees Jesus guiding us to be: a friend to the stranger AND a neighbor to ourselves.

As we begin this season of faith, please do look at your time and calendar! See the many opportunities we have within our presbytery to share the journey of dis-comfort and WELCOME, together. That is how we grow faithfully with the Spirit.

- Ask your colleagues who are in the [Missional Incubator](#) about their journey so far.
- Take prayer discernment time and read up on the [Amendments](#) we are to vote on this Presbytery Meeting, Jan. 23rd
- Join for a renewal in [Allyship training](#) that is IN-PERSON this February 8th at Lewinsville Pres.
- Gather with the many of us on Feb. 22nd for the NCP [Leadership Training](#) as we are blessed with Le Quan Turner and Paul Vasile for worship.
- And the annual NCP [Con-Ed event](#) for minister members and other church professionals, March 10th-12th (Tell your pastors to go!)

There are teams within our presbytery who are ready to connect and support your missional stretches regarding immigration, faithful politics, discipleship, youth ministry, and more. Just ask. We are not alone as we continue to navigate, join, and ask how God is compelling us to welcome and grow!

Peace and Courage,

Rev. Tara Spuhler McCabe