Dear Friends in the Presbytery of West Virginia,

Barbara and I thank you for the opportunity to stand for Co-Moderator of the 227th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). I have only been part of this presbytery for a few years, but it has shaped me deeply through its resilience, honesty, generosity, and commitment to Christ's mission.

We know these are demanding days for the church. Congregations are navigating change, uncertainty, and real challenges. Yet across West Virginia, we continue to see something hopeful: faithful communities quietly persevering with courage, creativity, compassion, and deep trust in God.

As Barbara and I participate in the church's discernment in the weeks ahead, one of our hopes is to help tell a fuller story of the church — especially stories that are too often overlooked.

So we would love to hear from you.

Share with us stories from your congregation and ministry:

- Stories of resilience — how your congregation continues serving faithfully through difficult times.
- Stories of celebration — moments that reflect God's faithfulness in your church and community.
- Stories of hope — dreams and possibilities you sense God calling your congregation toward.

Large or small, rural or urban, every congregation carries a witness the wider church needs to hear.

Over the next several weeks, we hope to share some of these stories as part of the church's broader discernment about leadership, mission, and faithfulness in this moment. We believe the church is strengthened when we learn to see one another more clearly and recognize where Christ is already at work.

One conviction continues to guide us: some of the church's deepest wisdom and strongest witness are often found in congregations far from the spotlight — communities that continue loving God and neighbor with quiet faithfulness.

Thank you for your prayers, your encouragement, and your witness.

Grace and peace,

Barbara Barkley
Clayton Valley Presbyterian Church
Clayton, CA

Bill Myers
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