

A Word from the Moderator
of the June 29 meeting of the Presbytery of Long Island
at Amagansett

*Blessed be the LORD, the God of Israel,
from everlasting to everlasting.
Amen and Amen.*

Psalms 41:13

I begin with the word “Amen.”

There is much to lift up from our meeting in Amagansett. The most powerful moments for me were those which brought us to worship and led us to say *Amen*.

The meeting began with worship. The presbytery was united not only in thanks to God, but also in offering prayers for our moderator, Kirk Dorn of Central Presbyterian Church, Huntington. The severity of his health problems grieves us and troubles us, his absence from our meeting saddened us, and concern for him united us in our petitions to God. We celebrated his return to Long Island after so lengthy a time in the hospital in Colorado and heard with prayerful regret that he was readmitted to the hospital only days after coming home. You are in our prayers, Kirk. *Amen*.

The meeting closed with worship as the presbytery commissioned two elders, Lorna Lisa (Brentwood) and Gordon Moore (Southold), two ministers, Jeff Geary (Setauket) and Wanda Lawry Hughes (Garden City), and our Youth Advisory Delegate, Beatrix Weil (Malverne) to serve as commissioners to General Assembly in Minneapolis from July 3-10. The presbytery also commissioned representatives of the young people from our congregations who will be attending the Youth Triennium at Purdue from July 20-24. A special word of commendation to Beatrix Weil who will serve both as a YAD and as a triennium delegate. Those commissionings underscore the obligation that is on us all who have been commissioned, since our baptism, to love and serve the Lord. May we always serve “with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love.” *Amen*.

Looking back after the meeting, I would find it challenging to count how many times we said “amen” as we met, worked, worshiped, and prayed together. One time in particular stood out for me. During the Committee on Preparation for Ministry report, the presbytery examined one of our inquirers, Minsoo Kim. We celebrated his move to candidacy by singing the doxology. The presbytery always sings strongly, but at the conclusion of the doxology the singing took on a special dimension. The body broke into four-part harmony to sing “Amen.” I am struck by theological symbolism of that harmonic affirmation. The presbytery approaches its most perfect harmony, as with tuneful joy it says and sings, *amen* and affirms its commitment to God’s will. “So be it, Lord,” — “Thy will be done,” — “This shall truly and certainly be” — *Amen*.

The hardest work of the day came late in the session as the presbytery wrestled with a series of issues which follow the closing of the Korean Church of Long Island. The work was left unfinished and invites our prayer between now and our next meeting in October. I was impressed, and offer my thanks to the presbytery, for the seriousness with which the body addressed this difficult, emotional, and challenging issue. May all that we do as a church be done with so much involvement, commitment, passion, and faith. *Amen*.

A special word of thanks to those who came early for the pre-presbytery workshop to hear brief presentations on six of the issues that are coming before General Assembly.

Special thanks also to the people of Amagansett for their faith, grace, and courtesy.

“Then all the people said ‘Amen!’ and praised the LORD” (1 Chronicles 16:36). *Amen*.

John F. Underwood