

Highlights of the August 14, 2021 Stated Meeting of Presbytery

Once again ZOOM was our friend (!) as the Presbytery gathered for the Summer Stated Meeting on August 14, 2021. Church of the Master and Covington First served as our co-hosts supplying our welcome, music and worship leadership.

Our own Phil Brown preached a sermon entitled: What is a Successful Church? As a writer for the Vital Congregations Initiative, he shared the vision of this initiative: being vital is about being present, and connected with people:

- Lifelong Discipleship: are we following Christ with our whole lives?
- Intentional Evangelism: Do we engage with people rather than talking at people?
- Outward Focus: Do we see Jesus in others?
- Empowering Servant Leadership: is the entire church empowered to lead?
- Spirit Inspired Worship: Are we open to the Spirit in worship rather than just going through the motions?
- Caring Relationships: are we truly connecting with our community?
- Ecclesial Health: are we dealing with our conflict in healthy ways? Do we nurture and support pastors and staff?

As Phil concluded, he reminded us this is not a step by step and all will be well! This is instead, a call to simply be the people of God.

Additional highlights from our meeting:

- We welcomed three new pastors: Kristy Ray serving Stockbridge, Laura Neely serving First LaGrange and Sue Kim Park serving at Columbia Seminary
- Karen Fletcher was moved to candidacy
- We celebrated the engrafting of Memorial Drive and Eastminister
- Our offering went to support Memorial Drive Ministries
- New Worshiping Community, Zo Presbyterian shared their ministry with the Presbytery
- We approved a new committee for Presbytery: Dismantling Racism
- We concurred with an overture from New Castle Presbytery
- Living Waters of the World shared their ministry

The next Stated Meeting of Presbytery is November 9, 2021. We are slated for a hybrid meeting but will re-evaluate as we monitor Covid numbers.