

Dear Partners in Ministry,

The Lord is moving! On behalf of pastors Rachel and Jeff and myself, as well as elders Julie Turner, John McAlpine, and Bill Peck, I want to thank you for your prayers and support for our trip to attend "The Fellowship of Presbyterians" Gathering in Minneapolis August 25 and 26. There is MUCH to share, but let me give just a few brief comments:

It was a GRACIOUS gathering. None of us are angry. We are deeply concerned, but committed to showing the love of Jesus Christ as we process our concerns.

It was an IMPACTFUL gathering. The 1950 delegates came from over 860 congregations from 49 states (no, I don't know what one was missing!) and three countries were there. 80 Presbytery executives were there, including our Steve Yamaguchi. And MANY Louisville Staff were there, including the highest executives. It is obvious that this has the attention of the people of God across our denomination.

It was a CLARIFYING gathering. Let's be honest: things are a mess right now. And the way forward is still a matter for much prayer, discern and process. And it will be messy! But the most cogent options were spelled out in creative and candid ways. We have a good idea of the range of responses to discern for our particular contexts.

What's next for us? Next week we will announce an INFORMATIONAL MEETING to which all will be invited. Nothing formal—just an overview of what happened. Then we will proceed to give the primary work of these concerns to our "Strategic Futures Task Force" and "Redemptive Vision Task Force."

KEEP praying. Our work has just begun. But I want to tell you that for the first time in recent memory my heart and spirit feel a lightening, a quickening—a sense of call for how to live and lead in this time. BLESS THE LORD!

Faithfully yours,

Douglas J. Rumford