



Proud as a Peacock  
August 22, 2022

You nailed it! At our August 18 Presbytery meeting, we asked the question: when are you as proud as a peacock about the Presbytery? Many of you responded similarly, and I wasn't surprised because I was proud, too! You could feel the energy in the room as soon as people started gathering to set up their mission displays. During our mission fair, there was a hubbub as groups talked excitedly about their mission activities in the community and around the world. So, it was no surprise when you identified your faithful participation in God's mission as one of the ways you were "proud as a peacock" of what we do together as a Presbytery.

Mission is a great equalizer. It didn't matter what size our congregation or ministry; it didn't matter whether we are located in an urban center or rural town. God invites all of us into mission and makes possible what might otherwise feel daunting. I love the story of Church of the Redeemer (Weiser), who partners with Love INC (In the Name of Christ) to provide backpacks and school supplies as kids head back to school. Love INC was reluctant to ask much of Redeemer because it was one of the smaller partner congregations, but Redeemer's spirit of generosity and love in the name of Christ led them to donate more needed supplies than many of the larger churches!

We used our Scavenger Hunt to encourage you to learn about the mission activities of the Presbytery's congregations, Presbyterian Women, and the Presbyterian Mission Agency. Congratulations again to TJ Remaley (Southminster), who was the first to turn in a correct answer sheet, winning \$100 for the domestic violence ministry of Boone Memorial. My favorite questions remain: which congregation or ministry would be a good mission partner for you? How will you explore opportunities with them?

Dennis Smith, retired Presbyterian mission co-worker, reflected in a 2021 column called "Bearing Witness": "There was a time when I thought of mission as something we as Christians do — a function of our devotion, our initiative. Little by little I learned that wherever I went in mission, God was already there. In some mysterious way, every people of every tongue — even in our common brokenness — was embraced by common grace. I came to understand that all are called as servants of God's mission — not the mission of my religion or my denomination.

"To walk alongside those of a different culture, a different lived experience — and specially to walk alongside those on the edges of our society — broadened my understanding of how and where God is present in this world," Smith wrote. "Indeed, I came to understand that **my** salvation was bound up in the salvation of all of humankind."

Thanks be to God for your faithfulness in mission and willingness to partner with others. We are bound together, called as partners in Christ's mission to the world. What a joy that we each bring special gifts that complement one another! I pray we will continue to explore those opportunities for collaboration in the months ahead.