

## From the Desk of the Acting Associate Executive Presbyter...

August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2018

In a text to a close friend, I recently wrote, “God is on the move and I need a nap.” At the time, this came from a super honest, even, raw place. Reflecting upon recent days and weeks, this could be a profound theological statement or silly banter between friends. Looking at the two parts of the statement:

### **God is on the Move:**

How do *you* know when God is on the move? One way the Holy Spirit moves is by the notion of chaos (Gen.1:2) – when everything feels formless and dark. Almost at once, the spirit begins to move. For me, when that happens, I feel all at once a sense of terror, peace and wanting to cry.

With talks about budget changes, leadership searches and brand-new church projects getting born, I feel both terrified of the future and certain in the knowledge that God is solidly in our midst.

Yay! God is in our midst. And now we must discern what exactly that looks like, where is God going and what is our response. This discernment is hard work, very deep, holy work. This type of discernment requires disciplined conversations with God, quiet and contemplative prayer and lots of conversations.

Which leads me to the other part of my statement, **I need a nap.**

This work you do, Heartland Presbytery, is deep, hard and holy. You have fought some immensely difficult battles, you are so generous in clothing the naked, feeding the hungry and caring for the people. I wonder how can we discern God’s voice in the act of creation if we are tired and our sense are dulled from exhaustion?

During contemplative prayer practice, I almost always end falling asleep, which brought guilt. (Who falls asleep on God?) Until I realized that God was providing me rest, holy rest. The type of rest you and I need to continue responding to God’s movements.

Will you join in me discerning God movements? And, will you be willing a ready to accept God’s rest when it shows up?

I ask you these questions, because really they are the ones I am constantly asking myself.

What an honor to work with each member of Heartland Presbytery!

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sally S. Wright