

Hello Heartland Presbytery!

I am thrilled to begin this adventure with you. Given, I am brand new my report offers less content and more reflection.

I offer this poem by John O'Donohue, To Bless the Space Between Us, For A New Beginning.

In the out-of-the-way places of the heart,  
Where your thoughts never think to wander,  
This beginning has been quietly forming,  
Waiting until you were ready to emerge.

For a long time, it has watched your desire,  
Feeling the emptiness growing inside of you,  
Noticing how you willed yourself on,  
Still unable to leave what you had outgrown.

It watched you play in the seduction of safety  
And the gray promises that sameness whispered,  
Heard the waves of turmoil rise and relent,  
Wondered would you always live like this.

Then the delight, when your courage kindled,  
And out you stepped onto new ground,  
Your eyes young again with energy and dream,  
A path of plenitude opening before you.

Though your destination is not yet clear  
You can trust the promise of this opening;  
Unfurl yourself into the grace of beginning  
That is at one with your life's desire.

Awaken your spirit to adventure;  
Hold nothing back, learn to find ease in risk;  
Soon you will be home in a new rhythm,  
For your soul senses the world that awaits you.

Sisters and brothers, I bow in deep appreciation and honor the history of Heartland Presbytery and all that has been. You are, who you are today, as a result of those leaders who have given of their time, talents, and energies listening to God's Spirit. Their actions initiated a path through valleys and hills and brought us to this place here and now.

As we are blessed into this new beginning, this new adventure, this new threshold, we are reminded us that much is required. Skills are needed as we chart a new course, an openness to discovery and an unfurling to possibilities are essential. As we take those initial steps, we are encouraged to continue leaning into grace while letting go of that which we have outgrown or no longer serves us. We are gently reminded that it takes bold courage to risk and fall and rise again in our explorations. As we see new visions and dream new dreams, we are assured that Divine love accompanies us, shines the light ahead, and surrounds us in this new beginning.

It is a joy to begin this journey with you.

Blessings Dee