

## Moderator's Report

This is the first time since the Fall of 2019 that we have been able to gather together for an in-person conference meeting, almost two and one-half years! It has been a long time not to have been together to kibitz, worship, explore and renew relationships. I feel very privileged to have this time with one another.

The past year has found the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference experiencing ways of sharing the good news of Jesus Christ. The reports of this meeting will reflect many of those ways, both old and new. From the continuing support of the work of the church through financial giving to Our Churches Wider Mission and other opportunities, to the growth of the special emphases on drug addiction, climate and environmental concerns and racial justice, we the conference have spoken words and done deeds of action for a world in need of hearing the gospel of Jesus Christ. This is joyful, indeed!

The past year found the Conference in the midst of transition. As churches continued to seek ways to worship and spread the good news of Jesus in the midst of the lingering pandemic, we have learned new technologies, experienced differing styles of worship, and sought exciting opportunities of service. The churches have shown to all not only the ability to adapt to changing realities, but the resilience of sharing the "old, old story" of Jesus' love. Each of the congregations of the Conference is to be commended for your faithful living out of this wonderful gospel.

The Conference experienced a major transition in its administrative life. The calling of our settled Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call brought to us the Rev. Kevin McLemore who began his ministry among us this past February. Our sincere expressions of appreciation go out to the Search Committee who worked diligently and with guidance of the Holy Spirit to fulfill this important task.

We also express our deep appreciation for the ministry of our Interim Associate Conference Minister for Search and Call, the Rev. Dr. Susan Minasian, who completed her service in early February. We have grown through her time among us, taking to heart her insights and her caring love for the Church. We pray for her as she continues her ministry, for she will be a blessing wherever God calls.

This is my final report as your Conference Moderator. It has been a privilege to have served in this capacity in the life of this Conference. I thank the officers of the Conference for their diligent service and support during my tenure. I thank the members of the Consistory, who have served with sincere love for the churches of the Conference, for their leadership over these past two years, leadership honed through new challenges brought on by the pandemic. The Conference is blessed by the ministry of these unique individuals.

The Conference is blessed by the many committees and task forces who work diligently to provide care and ministries of justice in our lives. I thank all who serve in these capacities. Your

ministry has brought life and vitality to the Conference as we seek to serve in love to the hurting world.

I wish to thank the staff of the Conference for their support and guidance during my time as Moderator. I have witnessed first hand their commitment to the churches in the carrying out of their duties. We are indeed blessed by those who serve as our staff: the Rev. William Worley, the Rev. Kevin McLemore, the Rev. Cean James, Ms. Susan Creswell, Ms. Brea Rarick, Ms. Tammie Wisniewski and Ms. Kim Kulesa.

On a moment of personal privilege, I wish to express a special thank you to Rev. Worley and Ms. Creswell. Your guidance, insights and reminders have made this time as Moderator much easier. I have deep respect for the help you have given me throughout these past two years.

I close this report with confidence for the future of the Pennsylvania Southeast Conference. This confidence is brought out by the many people who give, in so many ways, to the ministries of the Conference. You, the people, make up the Conference. You, the people, share in the many settings of ministry. You, the people, bring with your faith and service the fulfillment of St. Paul's words that nothing "...will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Thank you, thank you, thank you!

Respectfully,

Rev. Antonio L. Villareal