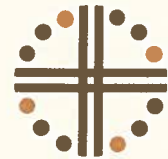


January 12, 2010

Rev. Grayde Parsons  
Stated Clerk of the General Assembly, Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)



**NATIONAL CAPITAL**  
**PRESBYTERY**  
Missional • Pastoral • Prophetic

Dear Rev. Parsons,

The National Capital Presbytery unanimously endorsed Elder Cynthia Bolbach, member of First Presbyterian Church in Arlington, Virginia, to stand for the office of Moderator of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly at its stated meeting on November 17, 2009.

Cindy (as we know her) has served this Presbytery as its Moderator, her congregation as its Clerk of Session and this Presbytery as its Interim General Presbyter immediately before my call to this position. Also as the moderator of the Presbytery's Committee on Ministry she came to know the challenges in ministry which daily press congregations toward new forms of faithfulness. She knows the blessings and sacrifice of the parish pastor who seeks to lead and grow a congregation. She knows discipleship to be a lifestyle in contrast with the culture which surrounds us; what it means to be light, leaven and salt in a dark, flat, bland context. In these responsibilities she has come to know dozens of congregations: large, moderate, small; progressive, moderate, evangelical; African-American, African, Asian, Euro-American congregations and multicultural congregations combining all of the above. She has been there: caring, guiding, coaching, encouraging, blessing. She walks the walk.

As a member and chair of the Presbytery Council she brought her considerable gifts of leadership to bear upon the Presbytery system. The same shifts we see in ministerial authority and the nature and purpose of a congregation are pressing our Presbyteries (and our General Assembly) to discern what they might be in relationship to their congregations. She played a significant role as this Presbytery discerned its purpose: to strengthen and transform its congregations to be missional, pastoral and prophetic outposts intent upon serving God's Mission in the world.

When I arrived in National Capital Presbytery and moved into the office Cindy had recently vacated, she gave me a Luther "bobble head" which nods approvingly with any whiff of wind. Shortly thereafter he was joined by one of Calvin as well, except the Calvin bobble head can shake his head "no," but is restrained from nodding "yes" by his length of beard. It may be time to give the guy a trim. It may be time for this branch of Calvinists to be more inclined to "yes" than it has been to "no." Yet we must discern the wind of the Spirit from any other common breeze. Cindy brings with her the wisdom and inclination to open this system up, to encourage faithful citizens of the realm of God in this corner of God's church to say "yes" to a new way of being the church creatively engaging its new context for ministry. She brings an insightful gift in discerning what is essential, from that which is preferred/ beautiful/ important but not essential. She is the leader we need in this time.

We heartily commend to you Cindy Bolbach as Moderator of the 219<sup>th</sup> General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.).

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. G. Wilson Gunn, Jr.  
General Presbyter

*Strengthening & Transforming Our Congregations*