



the Fellowship Community's 2018 National Gathering

# come together

## discipleship in a divided time

find unity in Christ. strengthen the Church. engage the Culture.

Peachtree Presbyterian Church, Atlanta, GA  
February 20-22, 2018



# Welcome

We are so glad that you have chosen to join us for the 2018 National Gathering here in Atlanta, Ga. Each year The Fellowship Community's National Gatherings have offered space and time for rich conversations, mutual encouragement, and growth within the context of commonly held theological premises and values within the PC(USA). While the denominational and ecclesiastical landscape has changed since the Fellowship's inception, our commitment to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ by growing in Christ's likeness, living by God's Word, and joining in God's mission in the world remains unwavering. The annual National Gatherings have been staples in helping us embody that commitment.

That commitment has renewed meaning today. Over the last several years our nation has witnessed unprecedented division and rancor. Political, ideological, religious, racial, and socio-economic fault-lines have threatened to level our culture in an earthquake of conflict. Yet, we know that the Sovereign God remains firmly in control and is calling us as the Church to leverage this moment for deeper discipleship formation. At this year's Gathering, we hope to have fruitful discussions with a diverse array of presenters and leaders over how this divided time might yield a harvest for the Kingdom.

We are excited about what God will say to us all, and we hope that each and every person here will come with a spirit of openness and be ready to receive and contribute to this year's Gathering. And we pray that what is said and done here will have an impact on how we guide our congregations at home.

## *The Fellowship Community Board*

Rev. Dr. Jerry Andrews, President

Rev. Dan Baumgartner, Marilyn Borst, Rev. Elizabeth Brookens-Sturman,

Rev. Herb Codington, Rev. James Cubie, Ned Freer,

Rev. Dr. Ralph Hawkins, Rev. Donna Marsh, Rev. Scott Mann,

Rev. Zachary McGowen, Hu-Nam Nam, Dr. Mark Perry, Rev. Tim Snow,

Rev. Bill Teng, Rev. David Won



# Schedule

## **Tuesday, Feb 20**

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2:00-4:00pm	Registration and exhibits open	CANYON
4:00-4:30pm	Kick-off and Welcome	SUMMIT
4:30-5:30pm	Opening Plenary with Rev. Dr. Mark Labberton <i>Discipleship in a Divided Time</i>	
5:30-5:45pm	Break	
5:45-7:15pm	Life Together & Dinner	FELLOWSHIP HALL
7:15-7:45pm	Exhibits Open	CANYON
7:45-8:45pm	Worship with Mark Labberton	SUMMIT
9:00pm	Fellowship	CAFE

## **Wednesday, Feb 21**

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(Breakfast on your own)

8:15am	Welcome	SUMMIT
8:30-9:30am	Plenary with Rev. Harvey Drake <i>Reaching Across Divides</i>	
9:30-9:45am	Break	
9:45-10:45am	Workshops	VARIOUS
11:00-12:00pm	Worship with Rev. Dr. Hope Lee	SUMMIT

12:00-2:30pm	Box Lunch and King Center Experience	
2:30pm	<u>Buses Leave</u> to return to Peachtree	
3:15-4:00pm	Break and Exhibits Open	CANYON
4:00-5:00pm	Workshops (repeat morning schedule)	VARIOUS
5:00-6:15 pm	Break, Connections Time, & Exhibits Open (for more on Connections Time see pg 4)	CANYON
6:15-7:15pm	Dinner	FELLOWSHIP HALL
7:30-8:45pm	Worship with Harvey Drake	SUMMIT
9:00pm	Hospitality Suite at Embassy Suites 3285 Peachtree Rd. NE, Atl., GA 3030	LOWER ATRIUM

## Thursday, Feb 22

(Breakfast on your own, or seminary breakfasts)

8:45am	Welcome	SUMMIT
9:00-10:00am	Plenary with Dr. Chad Pecknold <i>Citizenship from Above: The View from Augustine's City of God</i>	
10:00-10:30am	Break	
10:30am	State of The Fellowship Community	SUMMIT
11:00-12:00pm	Worship with Mark Hong	SUMMIT
12:00pm	Dismissal	



# In Addition

## Seminary Connections

Wednesday 5:00-6:15pm	Columbia Seminary	Room 4203
5:15-6:15pm	Union Seminary Seasons 52 3050 Peachtree Rd. NW Atlanta, GA 30305	Offsite
Thursday 7:00am	Fuller Seminary	Room 4204
7:30am	Princeton Seminary	The Canyon

## Group Connections

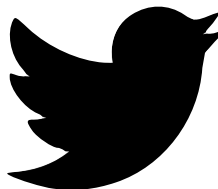
On Wednesday from 5:00-6:15pm in the Lodge Café, don't miss our group connections time where people from similar ministry contexts and experiences can get to know one another. Look for areas for *Under 40s Leaders*, *Women Leaders*, or *Small Church Leaders* throughout the Café.

## Social Media

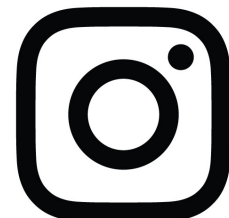
Join the conversation on social media listed below using the hashtag #cometogetherTFC. Post pictures, quote the speakers, pose questions, or simply say "hello"! Tag The Fellowship Community's channels listed below, and let other people know what God is doing here at Peachtree Presbyterian Church.



facebook:  
@TheFellowshipCommunity



twitter:  
@fellowshipcomm



instagram:  
@TheFellowshipCommunity

# Workshops

**Marilyn Borst**

***Lessons from the Global Church* Room 4201**

Today in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq and Egypt our Presbyterian brothers and sisters are reaching out in mission and ministry across great “divides”: religious, political, social and cultural. They are planting churches, sharing the Good News, caring for the most vulnerable and demonstrating the dignity of and equality for everyone made in the image of God. As they co-exist within sometimes-hostile religious majorities and where war and violence are present or too-likely, they live and speak a Peace, which truly “passes all understanding.”

**Rev. Michael Bruner**

***Flannery O'Connor: Crossing the Divide* Room 4205**

Can the good, true, and beautiful be a way of engaging--and challenging--culture at a time when Christians are under increasing fire for either being too caustic or too accommodating? Southern writer Flannery O'Connor has a way of engaging culture that bridges the divide of right and left. She manages to be prophetic without being patronizing and challenging without being churlish.

**Rev. Raymond Garcia**

***The Church in a Changing Community* Room 4204**

How can the church of today meet the theological and social needs of our culture? How do we embody a message of healing and hope while remaining grounded in our historical understanding of the Word of God? Is it possible to bridge the divide between urban and suburban American without reinforcing the false “great white hope” scenario? Come and be equipped to ask and answer these questions in your context.



**Rev. Bianca Howard**

***Bridging the Generations in Churches: How Can We Do Better?* Room 4208**

This workshop will explore why we need to bridge the generation gaps in our congregations, as well as problems and practical solutions involved in bringing generations in churches together. We will discuss the concept of Intergenerational Ministry and what that looks like for churches and families. Could it work in your church?

**Rev. Craig Kephart**

***Coal Patch Gospel: Small Church Unity Within a Divisive Culture* Summit**

Southwestern Pennsylvania's density of Presbyterian congregations has known its share of division in these times. Amid all of that the good news of Christ - and of unity in Him - still shines through in the small churches of shuttered steel mill towns, former mining communities, and rolling farm lands where solitary church buildings sit at back road intersections. Together we'll look at some keys to the spirit of unity and Christian ministry in congregations of this "fly over" region.

**Rev. Don Meeks**

***Leveraging the Cultural Moment for a Discipleship Opportunity* Room 4107**

It's no secret that we are in the midst of an immense shift in cultural values and norms. The confusion, tension and polarization we are witnessing in American society at large is making its way into our pews, Sunday school classes and Session tables. How should we as leaders respond to this cultural transformation? Is there some way to teach and lead that goes beyond our typical fight, flight or avoidance tendencies? This workshop is designed to help participants see how the cultural moment we are living in presents us with an unprecedented opportunity to deepen discipleship and boldly call people to both embrace and express Christ-like character.

**Dr. Herma Williams**

***Start with the Spirit: the Unifying Power of Prayer* Room 4108**

Prayer is an expression of our fellowship with God, and it is the bedrock of improved fellowship with one another. Through the transforming power of the Holy Spirit, we can develop an intimate relationship with God, and overcome the things of this world that stand in the way of greater unity in the body of Christ. In prayer we can participate in the accomplishment of the Lord's purposes and the demonstration of His love, grace and power. Are you ready?





# Get to Know

## Main Session Speakers

### Rev. Harvey Drake



Harvey Drake is pastor of Emerald City Bible Fellowship, a vibrant multi-racial congregation in Seattle, Washington, committed to making the gospel relevant to every facet of a person's life. He is also Founder and President of Urban Impact, a thriving community-based organization that is proactively addressing the total needs of families in Seattle's Rainier Valley.

Ordained in 1979, Drake has worked extensively with youth serving as Area Director for both Youth for Christ in Oakland, CA and Young Life in Seattle, WA. Since 1987, Drake has been devoted to addressing urban and inner-city issues through Urban Impact. Drake's activities include participation on a number of national and local boards. He is also involved in various community affairs, believing that effective development necessitates our presence and involvement. Drake is a champion of Biblical justice and racial reconciliation.

Drake is a frequent speaker for conferences, churches and community events. His greatest honor comes from being married to Andrea Drake, Ed.D, since 1977. Harvey and Andrea have two adult sons and three grandchildren.

### Rev. Dr. Mark Labberton



Mark Labberton, currently serves as president of Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, Ca. and host of the podcast *Conversing* which interviews national leaders about the role of faith in their work. He was ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA) and began what was to become three decades of pastoral ministry —along the way meeting and marrying his life partner, Janet Morrison Labberton.

Labberton served for 16 years as senior pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California, when he joined

Fuller's faculty, in 2009, as Lloyd John Ogilvie Associate Professor of Preaching and director of the newly established Lloyd John Ogilvie Institute of Preaching. In early 2013 he received the call to the presidency, succeeding Richard J. Mouw on his retirement, and on July 1, 2013, stepped into service as Fuller Seminary's fifth president.

In 1982 he cofounded the Christian International Scholarship Foundation (CISF) to help fund the advanced theological education of those Majority World leaders, and served on the CISF board for 17 years. He has also been chair of John Stott Ministries (which provides books, scholarships, and seminars for Majority World pastors), co-chair of the John Stott Ministries Global Initiative Fund, and senior fellow of the International Justice Mission. Labberton has been a popular and well-traveled speaker for years, and has taught at New College Berkeley for Advanced Christian Studies."



### **Dr. Chad Pecknold**

Chad Pecknold, once mentored by Presbyterian preaching giants Earl Palmer and Lloyd Ogilvie, is a Catholic theologian who teaches Systematic Theology in the School of Theology at The Catholic University of America in Washington, DC. He was trained at Fuller and Princeton Seminaries, before earning his PhD at the University of Cambridge in 2005. Pecknold is the author of a number scholarly articles and books including *Transforming Postliberal Theology* (T&T Clark 2005), *Christianity and Politics: A Brief Guide to the History* (Cascade 2010) and *The T&T Clark Companion to Augustine and Modern Theology* (Bloomsbury, 2014). Pecknold is a frequent contributor to debates in the public square, writing regular columns for *First Things* & *National Review* on a range of topics related to the importance and impact of Church teaching on social and political questions.

He is frequently sought after for his opinion on current events, and has been quoted in hundreds of news outlets around the world such as *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and *The Washington Post*. He has appeared as an invited guest on radio and television shows such as NPR's "All Things Considered," Vatican Radio, Al Jazeera America, BBC World News, ABC News, FOX News, CNBC Squawk Box, and he is a regular contributor on EWTN News Nightly offering his clear analysis and expert opinion on the Catholic Church, the papacy, and the relationship between the Church and politics in American culture. Pecknold resides in Alexandria, VA with his wife, Dr. Sara Pecknold (who teaches Music history at CUA) and their three kids Will, Catherine, and Jack.

## **Additional Preachers**

### **Rev. Mark Hong**

Mark Hong has resided in Southern California since coming to the U.S. in 1971 from South Korea. With a B.S. in Behavior Science from Cal Poly Pomona and a Masters of Divinity from Fuller, he was ordained in 1992. Hong has served Korea-American Congregations in the area of Southern California for the last 34 years and currently serves as the Executive/Stated Clerk for the Synod of Southern California and Hawaii. Hong has been married for 34 years and has 2 adult-age daughters.

### **Rev. Dr. Hope Lee**

Hope Italiano Lee has been the Lead Pastor of Kirkwood Presbyterian and The Well in Bradenton, FL for the last 9 years. Lee's passion is evangelism, church growth, and true redevelopment and revitalization of the church. Lee has become a vocal advocate for evangelical women in ministry, challenging churches to consider women in lead roles in their congregations. Most recently, Dr. Lee has been focused on how congregations engage families with special needs, rooted in her own experience of being a mother to a child with autism. Dr. Lee was born and raised in Baltimore, Maryland, graduated from Eckerd College in St. Petersburg, Florida and completed her doctoral work in homiletics at Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary.

## **Workshop Leaders**

### **Marilyn Borst**

Marilyn Borst is Associate Director for Partnership Development of The Outreach Foundation, a Presbyterian global mission agency. She works with churches around the United States to help them discern God's call to global engagement while connecting them to that work alongside the Global Church in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Asia and the Middle East---a particular area of specialty for her. She travels extensively, nurturing relationships with church leaders, assessing ministry initiatives and leading short-term vision teams---her journeys have taken her around the globe. Prior to joining The Outreach Foundation staff, Marilyn served for over 6 years as Director of Global Ministry at Peachtree Presbyterian Church in Atlanta. Marilyn holds M.A. degrees in Art History and Theology. She has participated in four archeological digs in Jordan and Egypt, and in 2014, Marilyn led a delegation from The Outreach Foundation to Syria which was privileged to meet with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. She has made 17 trips to Syria since 1996.



**Rev. Dr. Michael Bruner**

Michael Bruner is Associate Professor of Practical Theology at Azusa Pacific University in California. Born and raised in the Philippines the son of missionary parents, he received his Masters of Divinity from Princeton Seminary and his Ph.D. in Theology from Fuller Seminary. Michael is the author of the recently published *A Subversive Gospel: Flannery O'Connor and the Reimagining of Beauty, Truth, and Goodness* (IVP Academic Press, 2017) and is currently writing a commentary on the four gospels with his father, Dale Bruner. Michael is ordained in the Presbyterian Church (USA), a Lily Fellow, and a resident scholar at the Huntington Library in San Marino, and teaches weekly at Hollywood Presbyterian Church.

**Rev. Ray Garcia**

Raymond Garcia, is the founder and Executive Director of The Philadelphia Project. He currently serves as Senior Pastor at Roxborough Church. Married to Michelle, they have four children: Isaiah, Nathan, Cadence, and Thomas. Together they serve as visionaries for both TPP and Roxborough Church. Having served as a Youth Director for 15 years prior, in 2010, Garcia and Michelle trusted the leading of the Lord to settle into the city of Philadelphia and launch a new ministry that he had been praying about since 1996. It is with great passion and a sense of urgency to reach the lost, that he continues to serve in these capacities, advancing the Kingdom, proclaiming the Good News and looking forward to the Day of the Lord (2 Peter 3:12).

**Rev. Bianca Howard**

Bianca Howard is a graduate of Valdosta State University with a degree in Broadcast/Journalism. She also has a Masters of Divinity (Howard University School of Divinity) and Masters of Theology (Princeton Theological Seminary). Rev. Howard is currently an associate pastor and the full-time Children and Youth Pastor at Zion Baptist Church in Marietta, Georgia where she has served for 12 years. She has extensive missions experience traveling all over the world to places such as India, throughout Africa, Costa Rica and Europe. Howard is also a blogger and mentor for the Baptist Woman in Ministry (BWIM) organization. Howard is in the process of authoring her first book in which she address the fundamentals of a successful children & youth ministry in the black church. She has been married to Rev. Joseph T. Howard since 2014 and they live in Atlanta.

**Rev. Craig Kephart**

Craig Kephart completed his M.Div. at Pittsburgh Theological Seminary and served over two decades as a local church pastor. Since 2012 he has been Executive Presbyter of Washington Presbytery, located in the southwestern corner of PA, and is a member of the Board of Directors of Presbyterians Protecting Life. He and his wife, Kathy, live in Washington, PA, near their three adult sons.

**Rev. Don Meeks**

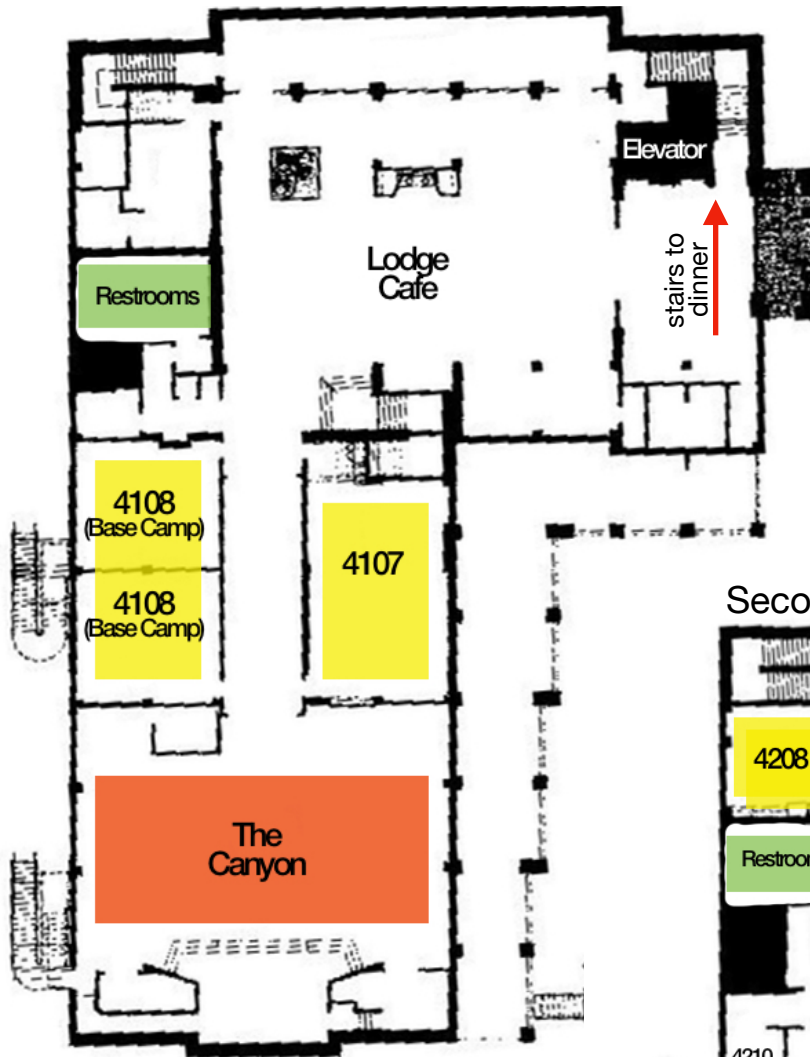
Since 2001 Meeks has served as the pastor of Greenwich Presbyterian Church in Greenwich, VA, near the historic Manassas battlefield. He has also served churches in Boulder, CO and Wichita, KS. He received a Master of Divinity degree from Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary \ and a Bachelor of Science degree from the University of Virginia. Meeks recently celebrated his 31st wedding anniversary with his wife, Krista. Meeks and Krista are parents of three adult children, Turner, Bailey and Colson. He is active in the Fellowship Community within National Capital Presbytery. An avid golfer and psalmic intercessor, his vision is to invite people to experience and express Christ-likeness in all of life.

**Dr. Herma Williams**

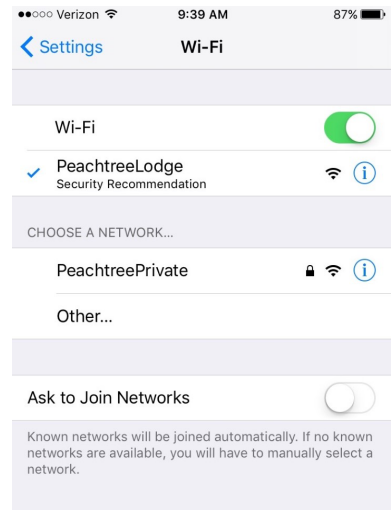
Herma Williams was born in the Republic of Panama, Panama City and received her Ph.D. with her husband Dr. Eric Williams in 1976 from Iowa State University. Williams also received an Honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters from Huntington University in Indiana in 2010 and is a recipient of numerous fellowships. Williams has worked as a senior academic administrator at numerous colleges and universities: her most recent professional role was Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs at Fresno Pacific University. Dr. Williams served as a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa during a unique time in South Africa's transition from Apartheid to democracy. While as a Fulbright Scholar in South Africa, Dr. Williams worked to improve the quality of underserved township Black schools. Currently, Williams serves on several national boards including: Fulbright Association Board, (2000-2016); Peer Servants, Board Chair; Degrees of Change Board, Tacoma and Seattle, WA, "Program to equip students of color to learn together through college and lead together back home". She has two children, Eric and Dana Williams.

# Lodge Map

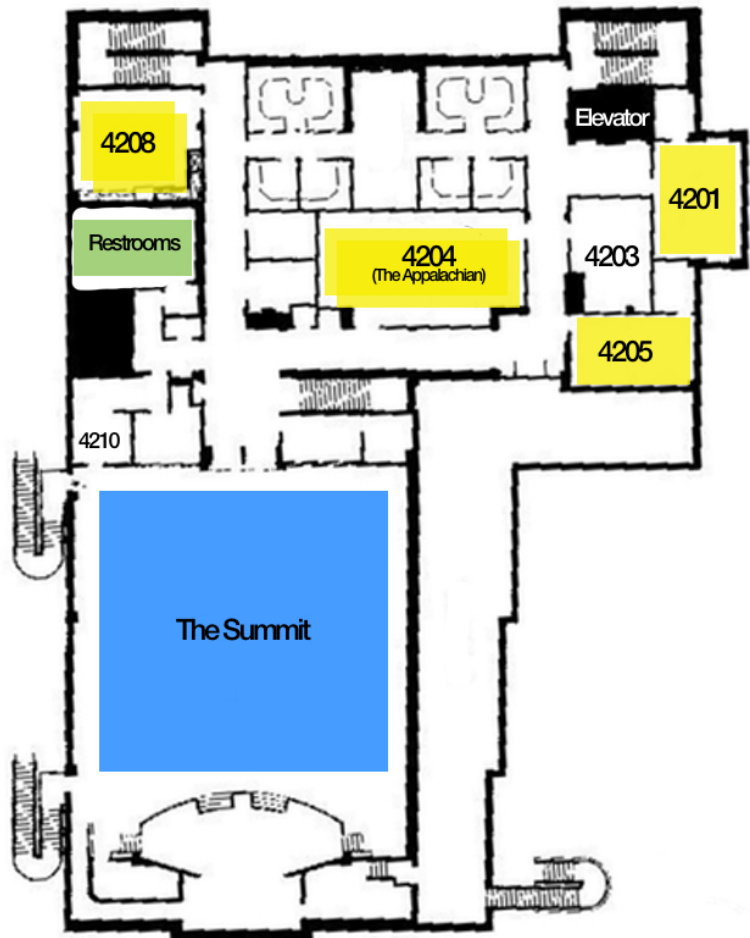
First Floor



Wifi available, no password necessary



Second Floor



Registration and Exhibit Hall

Workshops

Plenary and Worship

Restrooms



# With Gratitude

A lot of hard work and team effort goes into each National Gathering, and we would like to highlight and thank a few people, churches, and organizations who made this event possible. First, **Julie McGowen**, the National Gathering Coordinator, has worked tirelessly to coordinate catering, transportation, hotels, scholarships, and much more to make this Gathering successful. The Program Team of The Fellowship Community Board of **Dan Baumgartner, James Cubie, Ralph Hawkins, and Donna Marsh**, has prayerfully sought God's will and worked to secure the content for this event. **Josh Schicker** from North Avenue Presbyterian Church assembled a team of musicians from all over Atlanta and has masterfully and humbly prepared to lead us in worship throughout this Gathering. **Shenango Presbytery** sponsored the Tuesday night hospitality opportunity while its staff has meticulously monitored the finances and administrative tasks of The Fellowship, also coordinating the printing of the Gathering program. The people of **Peachtree Presbyterian Church** have been our gracious hosts, especially **Jenn Cate** who has been a valuable friend with facility usage and **Jerry Flowers** who has expertly handled our tech needs. **North Avenue Presbyterian Church in Atlanta, GA** has been so generous in their financial support of this Gathering and The Fellowship Community. **First Presbyterian Church in Lakeland, FL** generously provided the cost for various printing needs, signs, and banners. **The Presbyterian Foundation** was most generous in sponsoring the King Center experience and charter bus transportation in addition to the Wednesday night hospitality opportunity.

And we thank **you** for giving of your time and energy to be part of this special set of experiences and contributing your voice to the conversation.



# Notes

# Notes





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