

# REFLECTION

**Presbytery of Riverside**

**August 2, 2018**

The Presbytery of Riverside Discernment Team requests that you pray and reflect on this month's question. As you receive a word from the Holy Spirit, please communicate that to the Discernment Team through the Presbytery Office, [riversidepresbytery.info@riversidepresbytery.com](mailto:riversidepresbytery.info@riversidepresbytery.com).

I Corinthians 12:27 (MSG)

You are Christ's body—that's who you are! You must never forget this. Only as you accept your part of that body does your "part" mean anything.

I am reminded of lines from a hymn popular in the 1970s:

I am the church! You are the church!

We are the church together!

I would temporarily amend that to read:

"I am the Presbytery; You are the Presbytery."

We are Christ's body committed to being "the church" wherever and whenever we gather, in large or small numbers, in homes or storefronts or church buildings. But we who call ourselves "Presbyterian" and participate in local congregations are also part of a larger body called the Presbytery. Just as each church is "us," so is the Presbytery "us" and needs "us" individually and collectively to participate in it.

And just as many in our local churches are searching to discern God's will for them, individually and collectively, so is our Presbytery.

Both church and Presbytery have issues to bring before the Lord in prayer and ask for direction. Many of the issues are the same or similar:

Our numbers are shrinking, so Lord, how do we demonstrate your love to our communities and attract people into your presence with us?

Lord, how do we nurture our Presbytery so that it is able to provide the support and assistance for which we depend upon it and through which we love and support our sister churches?

Our church and Presbyter budgets are shrinking, so Lord, how do we use the resources you have provided to foster worship, education and evangelism programs that display your glory and attract others to join us? How are you asking us to change the way we do things?

How might you be calling me, as one person, to assist both my church and my Presbytery to continue to be fruitful for your kingdom?

As you pray this month, please listen to what God is telling you about Riverside Presbytery and about your possible participation in it. Please then let us know where you believe our Lord is calling us and you as well as how you understand the Lord is leading us to get there.

*-Submitted by Carol Entler, member of the Discernment Team*