

Southwood

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Dear Southwood Family,

I am writing you upon my return from this year's General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) to encourage you that you belong to a denomination that longs to be "faithful to the Scriptures, true to the Reformed faith, and obedient to the Great Commission." Ruling Elder Jeremy McCoy and I represented Southwood in Chattanooga last week, where we gathered to "lift our eyes" to our God together. The worship services and prayer gatherings were, as usual, a highlight of the week, and you can view all the services and assembly business sessions at youtube.com/@pcageneralassembly1973.

While the Church in our nation (and almost every denomination) is shrinking numerically, the PCA is consistently growing again each year since Covid. This year we celebrated over 5,000 covenant baptisms, over 5,000 covenant children professing faith in Christ, and over 5,000 profession of faith baptisms ... Praise the Lord! We're focusing together on planting churches both locally and globally, and the stories of God's work would encourage your souls to hear. Work on college campuses across the country and world through RUF reaches 20,000 students every week. Pray for God's continued blessing for the sake of his kingdom and the PCA's continued faithfulness to his mission.

Among other discussions, we formed two study committees this year to report back next year: one on a directory for worship to guide us as we plan services of various types, the other on Christian Nationalism to resource us for addressing these harmful views and their various manifestations in our churches and country. Along with this committee, we passed a statement alongside our sister denominations, the ARP and the RPCNA, "to condemn without distinction any theological or political teaching which posits a superiority of race or ethnic identity born of immutable human characteristics" and "call to repentance any who would promote or associate themselves with such teaching, either by commission or omission."

There were sad moments and painful personal discussions during the assembly that I could share with you about as well. But I thank God that presently in the PCA issues that are splitting other large denominations are not even being discussed or debated because of our shared commitment to the authority of God's Word in all of life and in every church. Please continue to pray that God will forgive us, renew us, and restore us in living all for Jesus together.

Grace and Peace,



Pastor Will