

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE PRESBYTER

March 30, 2020

Greetings,

Grace and peace to you in the Lord Jesus Christ.

Below you will find words offered by a California music teacher, Michael Reilly, but equally relevant to ministry in our altered circumstances. Perhaps you will find personal encouragement in these words. Or you might adapt them to use in some other fashion in the ministry into which God has called you. Whatever your circumstances, the God of hope sustains and guides.

Principles

1. Nobody signed up for this.
 - Not for the sickness, not for the social distancing, not for the sudden end of our collective live together on campus
 - Not for an online class, not for teaching remotely, not for learning from home, not for mastering new technologies, not for varied access to learning materials
2. The humane option is the best option.
 - We are going to prioritize supporting each other as humans
 - We are going to prioritize simple solutions that make sense for the most
 - We are going to prioritize sharing resources and communicating clearly
3. We cannot just do the same thing online.
 - Some assignments are no longer possible
 - Some expectations are no longer reasonable
 - Some objectives are no longer valuable
4. We will foster intellectual nourishment, social connection, and personal accommodation.
 - Accessible asynchronous content for diverse access, time zones, and contexts
 - Optional synchronous discussion to learn together and combat isolation
5. We will remain flexible and adjust to the situation.
 - Nobody knows where this is going and what we'll need to adapt
 - Everybody needs support and understanding in this unprecedented moment.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after:

To live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

To behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble;

He will conceal me under the cover of his tent; He will set me high on a rock.

—Psalm 27:4-5

Your colleagues in Beaver-Butler Presbytery seek to partner with you in this new time.

Reach out. Reach up. Reach together.

Partnering with you in the Hope of the Gospel,

David Oyler, Executive Presbyter

Beaver-Butler Presbytery