



**THE PRESBYTERY
OF SHENANGO
PC(USA)**

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Dear Sisters and Brothers of Shenango Presbytery,

My time as the Executive Presbyter is drawing to a close and there are a couple of comments that need to be made about what changes when that happens.

First, some of you have asked what I will be doing. Joan and I will continue living in the house we had built 20 years ago in New Wilmington. She is very active as a deacon and in other capacities at church.

I have plenty of interests to keep me busy, but I will not make any regular commitments for the rest of this year. I have just completed a book review and will build on that with a paper on the Sudan Partnership at the American Society of Missiology meeting this summer. I will continue to attend meetings of mission scholars which have been such a blessing to me for many years. I will be doing research in the years ahead on stories of the New Wilmington Mission Conference. I will continue with a missional church project in western PA.

Joan and I will be doing some traveling and spending more time with our six grandchildren. She has been retired from teaching for six years, but I have never done this before so we will be learning some new patterns.

An equally important question is what I will not be doing. I am no longer the Presbytery Executive and I will not attend a Presbytery meeting for at least a couple of years. I will not be participating in any Presbytery activities. I cannot be working with any congregations or pastors on Presbytery matters.

I have often said to retiring pastors, "You are no longer the pastor of the congregation, but you continue to be a friend of the people." That is true for me. So when my "friends" come from the Sudan I will certainly be saying hello to them. But I will not be participating with the Sudan Team (they are wonderfully competent to continue that partnership) nor will I be going to the Sudan. I will not be attending Pastor Retreats, even though my dear friends Jannie Swart and Ken Bailey are leading the next two... you are in very good hands.

I will always be interested in hearing about what is happening in Shenango Presbytery, but I will not be commenting on it and I will most definitely not be commenting on the work of my successor. I certainly will be praying daily for him/her and all of you. God is definitely able to sustain the churches of Shenango Presbytery without help from me!

Joan and I have been exceedingly blessed by almost 22 years of ministry with you. Thanks be to God for his mercies to us all. Philippians 1:3 - 6

Yours in Christ,

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