Dear Disciples: A Word on Gratitude and Rest
February 18, 2022

Transcript

Hello Disciples. Well I'm back! This is your General Minister and President Terri Hord Owens. Thank you church for the gift of a three-month sabbatical time to rest, renew, read, reflect, rest, re-energize, reimagine…and did I say rest?

As I prepared for my sabbatical the moderator team asked me how I would like them to pray for me and I said I wanted them to pray as the Rev. Tricia Hersey known as the Nap Bishop says I wanted ‘to get lost in the rest.’ And so I'm grateful to God that I embraced the fullness of allowing myself to rest and remove myself for a time from the fullness of all the obligations. Thank you church for that time of rest and I return to my ministry remembering that it is so important that I ensure that my rest will continue even as I am actively serving you as General Minister and President.

I've been calling the church to imagine who we must be as a new church for a new world and as part of my reading during my sabbatical I re-read Walter Bruggeman's The Prophetic Imagination. And in his introduction to the 40th anniversary edition he reflects on first Corinthians 1 verses 25 through 28 and invites us to get inside God's imagination. God's imagination Disciples is as limitless as God's love for us that 1 Corinthians text tells us that God's weakness is stronger than our strength and God's foolishness is stronger than our wisdom. Just when we think we are at the limits of what we can do or be or think we must remind ourselves that with God all things are possible and nothing can be bigger than God's vision of the kingdom realized here on earth. God's limitless love is reflected in Jesus the Christ so as we prepare even for our Lenten season and as we move forward I hope that you will remember that with God all things are possible and that there are no bounds beyond which God cannot take us.

I returned 10 days before the start of our Administrative Committee and General Board meetings and I can't wait to share more about the work that came out of those meetings as we move forward as church together in the meantime let me remind you of my favorite text Philippians 1 and 6 I return from sabbatical still confident that the one who has begun this good work in all of us will complete it God bless you Disciples. Find some time to get lost in the rest even as you prepare for the work of living into the kingdom of God as Jesus has taught remember God loves you and so do I.