

Dear Congregations of Lucknow and South Kinloss Presbyterian Churches:

*“Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.” Philippians 4: 6-7*

We all say it: “Time is going fast.” I have been your interim moderator for about a year and a half now. In reflecting on the time I have been serving with you in this capacity, I am thankful for your love for your congregations and your faith in God who is guiding you through the power of the Holy Spirit. As you are into 2023, your trust in God will give you confidence in his plan for your congregations going forward.

I feel that your congregations have provided comfort and warm support for those who are facing challenges such as disappointments, illness, and loss. That could be the loss of loved ones, but also other losses one experiences in their life. At the end of the session meetings the session elders provide news of people in the congregation and those in the community who are in need of prayer. Then I start the prayer and the elders follow by praying out loud for those named – a beautiful example of Christian leadership!

The session members have worked diligently in communicating with each of their congregations about ministry presently happening in the congregation. The session and congregation members also provide leadership in worship serving alongside those who come to provide pulpit supply.

The two sessions have also met twice in joint session meetings over the course of 2022, and have come to the decision that they will continue to serve the Lord as a pastoral charge. In addition, the discussion also focused around the important need for our two congregations to be more intentional about supporting one another’s ministries and events by means of encouragement; being present at the events, and praying for one another.

As the search team has started their work on finding a new minister, we pray for the Holy Spirit to give them wisdom and discernment as they find and recommend the new spiritual leader for our congregations. God is good and will provide. Let us not worry about anything, but trust the Lord with all our heart.

In Christ,

Rev. Ed Hoekstra

Interim Moderator