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Friends in Christ,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

When I was interviewing for this position in the fall of 2018, my wife Laura and I had just returned from Kansas. We had been serving as interim pastor and Christian educator in a wonderful Presbyterian church there. The congregation had participated in a mission study built on Acts 2:42 which describes the ministry of the early Church: "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers." I wondered if that description of the early Church could apply to the ministry of a presbytery today.

As part of my work with the Presbytery of the James, I was invited to participate with the Strategic Planning Team. I believe that God's Spirit moved the early Church and has continued to move within and through the Church down through the centuries. I was confident that the Spirit would blow freshly across this presbytery. I have seen the Spirit at work in the wealth of insight, experience, joy, love, and deep commitment to Christ that permeates the fifteen people prayerfully selected from among the congregations and ministries of the presbytery. It has truly been an amazing venture. God has added a special blessing to this strategic work.

I have been enriched and energized by spending time with these wonderful servants of Christ and pray that the Presbytery of the James will add its support to this plan.

In Christ's Service,

Fred A. Holbrook
Interim General Presbyter & Stated Clerk

