

February 6, 2007

Dear Participant in the Communion and Conversation Event:

Today while attending a meeting of the Special Offering Review Task Force in Louisville, I heard task force chair Eileen Lindner relate taking her three year old grandson to Disney World and the two of them going on "Mr. Toad's Wild Ride." Mr. Toad, of course, is a character from the Wind in the Willows, and Disney has interpreted this story by having visitors climb into old-time jalopies and embark on the ride of their lives. Eileen and her grandson climbed in, and the car took off, fast, careening towards what appeared to be a solid wall. Phew-the wall magically parted, and off the jalopy sped over a bridge, which immediately began collapsing, and on and on, for the longest and scariest drive ever. When it was over, Eileen's grandson turned to her and said, "I really liked this, Grandma, but next time, you drive."

Mr. Toad's Wild Ride is what I suspect many of us are experiencing in our leadership in local congregations, presbyteries, and synods. Much as we are tempted to turn the driving over to someone else, nevertheless we find ourselves right smack in the driving seat facing concrete walls and collapsing bridges and societal events beyond our control, but we continue to climb in and to travel on, despite the uncertainties ahead, because ultimately we find a deep joy and satisfaction and love in what we do as disciples of Jesus Christ.

It is with great anticipation that I look forward to meeting with you all and working with Gil Rendle to get a better sense of our journey together in middle governing bodies in the Presbyterian Church. The jalopies we drive differ greatly, but the call to go out and forth is the same: "Come, follow me," says our Lord.

Traveling mercies to all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison K. Seed". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Rev. Dr. Allison K. Seed  
Chair, General Assembly Council