

Greetings!

I joined the board of the Glacier Presbyterian Camp because of my own experiences growing up attending church camp on Flathead Lake. While I grew up attending a camp on the opposite side of the lake, the impact of being in a beautiful place where I could let my heart, mind and spirit run free, grow deeper in faith, and make amazing life-long friendships stays with me today. A friend I made during my first week of camp in the 5th grade was my maid of honor in my wedding fifteen years ago, and we are still good friends. Those experiences and relationships are part of the journey that led me to becoming an ordained pastor. There's something about camping ministry that creates a liminal space, where the line between this world and the heavenly kingdom is thin. I don't pretend to understand it, but I know it happens.

Serving on the board has taught me that none of this deep-growth-in-faith-for-life happens by accident. As I have reflected on my own experiences and the realities of our camping ministry in Glacier Presbytery, I realize that so much goes on behind the scenes that campers, parents and donors rarely get the opportunity to hear about. So many hopes, dreams, prayers, financial and in-kind support have been poured into this ministry. So many people have faithfully supported this camp for years and years. And so many people continue to give support, including many new first-time donors for this "Drive for 75" appeal. The support, now totaling \$70,000, is overwhelming! Now that God, through you, has met our acute need, we are in a place to plan for the long haul.

We are so grateful. We believe in the camping ministry. We know lives are touched at this place and that life-long connections have been forged in stone here. While we do not yet know exactly where the path is leading, we do know we want to be faithful. We want to follow Christ wherever Christ leads us. We are excited to go forward into these mysterious times together.

The shape of our camping ministry may change. We're not entirely sure what God is up to. But we know God is faithful to God's people. Whatever God is doing in us and through this camping ministry, we need your active participation. Please pray for the leadership of the board and for our executive director, Rev. Tim Lanham. Reach out to the board with your gifts of imagination, creativity, energy, hope and faith. And if you believe God is leading you to give financially to this endeavor, please send your gifts to the camp. Any gift beyond the \$75,000 goal will help us to carry the ministry into the new year.

With great appreciation for your prayerful support, I am

Sincerely Yours in Christ,

~Rev. Carrie A. H. Benton, GPC Board Co-Moderator