



Director's Message: *The Springing Forth of a New Agency*

*I stuck my head out the window this morning
and Spring kissed me, bang, in the face.¹*

The poet Langston Hughes was most aware that Spring had arrived when its warmth touched his skin. For others, it is when we see flowers begin to bloom. The celebration of Easter also marks this yearly season of rebirth and renewal.

The Presbyterian Mission Agency and the Office of the General Assembly are together witnessing God's miraculous power to consistently renew and revitalize us. Since the 225th General Assembly (2022), a Unification Commission has been moving carefully through a well-defined process to combine the two agencies. A final report will be submitted to the 227th General Assembly (2026).

I have found extraordinary promise in one of the descriptions shared for our new structure: "It will not just be a Mash-Up, but a *Start-Up*."

A Start-Up. Something new and different. This description beams with hope. Like the forthcoming Spring, I patiently await the opportunity to "feel" this new agency. Patience will be important; some changes will be immediate while others will take time.

Imagine those who witnessed and endured Jesus' crucifixion. They could not imagine that Jesus would overcome the very tool of the empire that controlled and held people in bondage, the power that controlled and oppressed so many. Yet, in three days, God raised him! Easter was the *Start-Up* of something big.

Luke tells us, "After his suffering, he presented himself to them and gave many convincing proofs that he was alive. He appeared to them over a period of forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God." (Acts 1:3) But there was more to come in the evolution of the church.

They had to wait for Pentecost for the Holy Spirit to come. Peter and others had to continue to preach the gospel before the small group of followers grew to 5,000. Even then, further organization, the appointment of deacons, was needed to ensure all widows were treated equally.

Patience and hope work together.

I deeply appreciate the work of our Unification Commission. I know that God is working through this amazing team to bring forth a powerful new agency to equip and support a new church, for a new time-- a time such as this.

Rejoice!!!



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¹ Langston Hughes, "The Early Simple Stories"

