

Dearest Northeastern Pennsylvania Synod Clergy and Laypeople,

It is with a mixture of sadness and hope that I share my resignation as Synod Vice-President with you, effective April 15th, 2023.

I know many want to jump to details, but let me instead share a story with you.

Last year, on a perfectly clear evening, the electricity running to our home suddenly went out. It remained inexplicable until the next morning, when, upon my walk with our Irish Setter, his nose led us to the unfortunate cause: our beloved neighborhood Great Horned Owl, who roosted in the creek-side trees, lay perished beneath the pole supporting the electric transformer. Since that morning – as one does not easily forget the sight of a Great Horned Owl lying in your yard – I have pondered on more than one occasion about sudden ends. How much those sudden ends grieve us, how they force us to consider and reconsider our current state.

Sudden ends are jarring, but sometimes, sudden ends are exactly what needs to occur. We must all be roused from time to time to consider and reconsider our current states.

And so is my sadness and my hope: that my end in service to the Synod as Vice-President can also be a necessary beginning for the next set of changes to occur. The details do not matter nearly as much as the gravity of considering current states and what must happen next.

But let me be completely clear about this:

The ownership of what happens next belongs to everyone in this Synod, lay and clergy alike, together.

We *are* church together.

Respectfully,

Kristen Edelman-Weiner