



CHEROKEE  
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## So What Is Going On?

April 18, 2024

A communication from Cherokee Presbytery

When my daughters were in elementary school, there was a grade level performance that all students participated in. Since my girls are a year apart in school, I got to go back-to-back years. One song from that assembly had a refrain that went:

Knowledge is power, I know what I know  
The more I learn, the farther you'll go.  
When you get an education you'll be taking a stand  
Because knowledge is power -  
Grab it while you can - YO!

It made an impression. And there was a heavy emphasis on the "YO!" at the end.

I have been thinking of this song as I have followed some of the conversations surrounding the upcoming Board of Pensions changes to the medical plan. There is a lot of anxiety surrounding them, as well as a lot of speculation. I am not really on Facebook, but it is my understanding that a Pastoral Leaders forum has had many comments and questions. Much of this is rooted in the basic fact that as a culture, we don't necessarily like change. And some of it is based on the fear of having to navigate something new and different. And a lot of it is genuine concern for the impact the changes could have on our pastors and their families, staff, and congregations.

But knowledge is power, to quote the song and Francis Bacon. And we have two upcoming opportunities to ask questions and get information from Clark Simmons, our Presbytery's Board of Pensions representative. He will be with us on May 2 at First Presbyterian in Marietta to address our questions and concerns (see announcement below).

I strongly encourage all of you who are able to attend. I have attended a presentation in Northeast Georgia, and Clark was with our Commission on Ministry at our last meeting. This is a very informative time, and Clark and his team are ready to help guide all of us over the next few months so that we

can make informed and faithful decisions. These changes will not go into effect until January of next year, and the enrollment period will be in the Fall as it has been in years past. So having the opportunity to learn of the shifts in our medical coverage options is a gift to us.

I'm grateful to Clark for his pastoral approach to helping us during this transition. And I am grateful to each of you for your faithful ministry within our presbytery.

Peace-  
Andy

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**REMINDER** - Clark Simmons will host two gatherings for Pastors and Congregational Leaders about the upcoming changes to the Board of Pensions plan. Personnel committee members are also invited to attend. The meetings will both be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024 in room 049 at First Presbyterian Church in Marietta. The meetings will be held at 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. that day. Please RSVP by Monday April 29 to Sarita Morris by email [sarita@cherokeepresbytery.org](mailto:sarita@cherokeepresbytery.org) or call 770-382-6280.

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