



Presbytery of Genesee Valley

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September 26, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ:

I write to endorse the work of Firebird Spirit, Inc. Firebird Spirit is the consulting and education arm of South Presbyterian Church, a member congregation of our Presbytery.

South Presbyterian Church has been on a journey of discovery for the past eight years, moving from identifying that the church's mission did not include the burden of building ownership, to selling the church building with the Presbytery's blessing, to establishing new ministries called Acts of Faith throughout our city, to serving as educators and consultants to other congregations and presbyteries. South's story, as told by Pastor Deborah Swift, is compelling and inspiring. I commend the book, *The Church Has Left the Building* to you.

While the Acts of Faith continue to flourish, Deborah Swift and the South's Session have brought together a team of members and friends to work with other congregations and mid-councils. The team, Firebird Spirit, is well-trained and brings a variety of skills and passion to this work. Churches in our Presbytery, presbyteries in our Synod of the Northeast, and presbyteries on the East and West Coasts have let me know how much they appreciate Firebird Spirit's leadership through prayer, spiritual practices, visioning, and strategic dreaming and planning.

I am proud that South Church and Firebird Spirit, Inc. are active in our presbytery. They exhibit what I believe strongly: *There is more than one way to "do Church" in the Presbytery of Genesee Valley!*

Grace and peace,

Amy Williams Fowler
Presbytery Leader

AMY WILLIAMS FOWLER
Presbytery Leader

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