Dear PHS supporters and friends,

We wanted to share some important news with you about a leadership change at the Presbyterian Historical Society.

The Reverend Dr. Beth Shalom Hessel is stepping down as PHS Executive Director to become the Executive Director of the Athenaeum of Philadelphia, a historic member library and architectural archives. Beth’s last day at PHS will be June 17.

The PHS Board is working with the Stated Clerk of the PC(USA) to identify an acting Executive Director, and we will be updating you soon about that placement. For now, we wish to thank Beth for her four years of dedicated service to the National Archives of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and to wish her the very best at the Athenaeum.

Beth leaves an outstanding record of accomplishment at PHS, including major strategic planning and realignment initiatives, increased fundraising, an overhaul of the Society’s communications, and growth of our collections—including congregational records, papers of African American leaders, and LGBTQIA+ history records. Beth has cultivated institutional partnerships across a wide array of associations in Philadelphia and around the country.

“It has been an honor to serve God’s people, the PC(USA), and the larger research community,” Beth wrote to PHS staff, board members, and council members in a recent email. “We have made great strides toward achieving our vision of being an inclusive, relevant, and responsive archives that collects, preserves, and shares the fullness of American Presbyterian history.”

We could not agree more. On behalf of the entire PHS Board we commend Beth for everything PHS has achieved under her leadership, and thank her for the many opportunities we now have to build on her legacy.

Sincerely,

The Reverend Dr. George Abdo
Board Chair

Ernest R. Higginbotham
Incoming Board Chair