

New Stole for Moderator of Carlisle Presbytery

At the February 23, 2016 meeting of the Presbytery of Carlisle, a new moderator stole was presented and used for the first time.

SYMBOLISM OF STOLE

The stole combines symbolism in the images depicted as well as in the fabric chosen.

IMAGES

The stole incorporates two main symbols. First, there is the logo of the PCUSA—this logo is itself an amalgamation of various symbols. (You can read a full description of its parts here:

<http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ecclesial-and-ecumenical-ministries/departement-stated-clerk/seal/>)



Second, there is the logo of the Presbytery of Carlisle (shown on left). This logo is used on the official banner for Carlisle Presbytery when banners for presbyteries across the U.S. are displayed at General Assembly. It includes half of the PCUSA logo in the background, and then depicts a helping hand reaching out to the world, inspired by Christ and the Holy Spirit.

FABRIC

The fabric is a pale blue with an appearance of water. This not only calls to mind our baptism in Christ, but also the many churches in Carlisle Presbytery that were originally established near water: rivers, streams and springs. Today there are a number of churches in the presbytery that incorporate the word “spring” into their names or include names of nearby creeks.

Finally, the entire image is not complete until the two halves on the stole are brought together, symbolizing our shared ministry within the presbytery—many churches, one body of Christ.

DESIGNER OF 2016 STOLE

The stole is the artistic product of Pat Wiant, who designed and made it as a gift to the Presbytery of Carlisle. Pat is the mother of Kelly Wiant, Associate Pastor at Market Square Presbyterian Church. The stole was commissioned by Donna Wenger, Moderator, Presbytery of Carlisle, 2016.

HISTORY OF RECENT STOLES

1977 to 1992

During these years, moderators wore a stole created by Rev. Robert Yetter. It was woven in a medium blue and featured various symbols depicted the heritage of Presbyterians, particularly in Pennsylvania.

1992 to 2016

An out-going moderator, Rev. Deborah McKinley, commissioned a new stole for moderators. It was loom-woven by Florence Seidler, a member of Big Spring Presbyterian Church. With a background of bright blue, the stole featured the Presbyterian symbol adopted by the 197th General Assembly in 1985.