

Kris Schondelmeyer would be an inspired and inspiring Co-Moderator for the General Assembly of the PC(USA). I have known Kris in two capacities. As a professor of spiritual formation, I had the privilege of serving on his doctoral committee where his academic rigor, his organizational acumen, and his passionate commitments to compassion-based social engagement were on full display. In addition, Kris has attended contemplative retreats and an intensive compassion formation program that I lead. I know him from both the rigors of advanced ministerial education and the prayerful spaces of quiet retreat centers.

These two contexts reveal Kris' complementary gifts. He is, at once, intellectually very bright, and also a man with a deeply caring heart; he is profoundly committed to justice, equity, and the systemic securing of the safety and dignity of all persons, while contemplatively attentive to his own spiritual life; he has a still center grounded in his faith in an extravagantly compassionate God, and he boldly advocates for a world that embodies the politics of compassion—a world that incarnates the Kin-dom of God.

Kris has known suffering, and the sober resilience that comes from a lifetime commitment to spiritual growth and personal restoration. And he embodies a leadership tuned to the suffering of others and committed to processes, practices and systems that nurture the well-being of all people. He is a man of integrity, of faith, of character, and of fortitude. I would be proud to be in a denomination with him in such a position. The people will be well led and well served.

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