

Dear Tools and Training Working Group,

Thank you for the generous scholarship of \$300 to help me attend the Presbyterian Camp and Conference Center Association Conference in November at Zephyr Point in Nevada. It was an inspiring and renewing time for me and I'm very grateful for the funds that helped make it possible!

I was able to dialogue a great deal with people about the mental health challenges facing many young adults today, as well as the need for more Gap Year possibilities for 18-23 year olds. I met a number of contacts that will prove to be fruitful in growing the impact of the Lagom Landing Gap Year ministry.

It was also quite renewing to network with so many people who, like me in forming and running a nonprofit, were not necessarily prepared for their careers in organizational leadership. So many of the camp directors I met have all learned their skills on the go, and so they are eager both to share their successes and laugh about their failures. I enjoyed such helpful camaraderie and everyone was very approachable as we shared skills and resources.

The time with Lea Kone and Michelle Sumption spent thinking intentionally about Camp Whitman's life really got me on board and excited about the future of Camp Whitman and strategizing its potential for Christian ministry.

Finally, the setting was absolutely stunning. The stillness of Lake Tahoe in the morning and evening light will stick with me for a long time, particularly since one of the PCCCA regulars has a tradition of bringing his bagpipes to every conference. Hearing Amazing Grace while watching the mountains reflected in soft pink hues at the "thin place" prayer portal on the Zephyr Point property was a spiritual highlight.

Thank you again for the scholarship, and let me know if you'd like to hear more about the conference!

In Christ's Abundant Love,  
Laurel Nelson