



Amanda Leighton

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There have been two trains sitting out my window this morning. The first was a passenger train, and the second was full of freight. This is today's picture of the nature of conference work.

The freight (day-to-day administration, event planning, policy keeping, etc.) coupled with the passengers (you, the churches) are both required. There wouldn't be one without the other. The work is meant to support the people, and the people support the work.

Working for and with you, has been both a pleasure and a privilege. I've enjoyed being a witness to your

communities, seeing the differences and noticing the similarities. I've been touched by the way that you treat each other at retreats when things are light and airy, but especially at conferences and meetings with tough subjects and heavy topics.

I have loved how you love each other yet also aware that not all of you have that experience. I have witnessed your generosity and enjoyed your warmth. Thank you for these gifts.

