

“How Polity Saved Christmas”

A short, loosely held nativity narrative for a Presbytery Zoom meeting.

This story begins in a world that felt—honestly—not that different from our own.

People were overwhelmed.

Leaders were tired.

Systems were stressed.

And angels, surprisingly, were having an organizational crisis.

Because it was time to announce the birth of Jesus, and the heavenly host could not agree on how to do it.

One angel wanted a thunderous proclamation.

Another suggested a choir rehearsal.

A third thought maybe they should just wing it—literally.

Finally Gabriel, who had the calm voice of someone who always remembers the agenda, said:

“Friends... what if we follow a decent and orderly process?”

And in that moment, heaven exhaled.

Polity had entered the chat.

Meanwhile on earth, Mary and Joseph were also feeling the weight of everything falling apart.

The census was chaotic.

The town was crowded.

The only space available was a stable.

And Joseph, staring at barn animals and a manger full of hay, quietly said what every overwhelmed church leader has said at least once:

“This is not what we planned.”

But Mary, with that steady wisdom of someone who understands God far better than most committees, answered:

“We’re going to follow the order God sets before us:
love, humility, listening, and trust.”

Mary understood something that heaven was just beginning to grasp:
good order doesn’t suppress grace — it protects it.

Back in the fields, the shepherds were finishing their night shift when an angel suddenly appeared.

They were terrified—not by the brightness, but because this felt suspiciously like a called meeting with no notice.

But the angel, who had clearly completed the polity training, reassured them:

“Fear not. This announcement is properly before you.”

That helped.

Then the angel laid out the plan clearly:

- the purpose
- the location
- the next step
- the expected outcome

It was the most Presbyterian angelic message in recorded history.

So the shepherds did what faithful leaders do when the Spirit nudges them:

They organized, they went together, and they followed the star.

Not as individuals—

but as a connectional system.

When they arrived, they didn’t barge in or overwhelm Mary and Joseph.

They simply offered presence, wonder, and support.

And as they stood around the manger, they realized something surprising:

Polity had brought them here.

Not bureaucracy.

Not red tape.

But order that created space for the holy.

It calmed their fears.

It held them together.

It helped them respond faithfully.

And in that moment, they understood:

Good order is just love wearing a toolbelt.

Later, Mary would tell the story like this:

“The birth of Jesus was full of mystery and mess and glory.

But God’s order kept us safe.

Love arrived.

Hope showed up.

And the world changed—

all decently and in good order.”

And that, dear friends, is how—

in a world swirling with uncertainty—

polity helped shepherds find the Christ,

helped a young family breathe again,

and helped heaven and earth work together

to welcome the One who brings peace.

Because sometimes the greatest gift God gives us
is Jesus. And another gift is the order that lets us recognize him.