

## **Japinga elected to transitional executive position**

The Presbytery of the Twin Cities Area has elected the Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Japinga, who currently serves on the faculty at McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, to a three-year term as its transitional executive presbyter.

The election took place during the presbytery's annual meeting May 12.

At McCormick, Japinga is associate dean for doctor of ministry and certificate learning programs, and assistant professor of leadership and ministry.

The Rev. Stephanie Anthony, who chaired the search committee, wrote, "The presbytery called [him] to provide bold leadership to assist the presbytery in sharpening its emerging vision. He will provide strategic executive and entrepreneurial leadership, oversight and communication, and is charged to implement significant changes in the presbytery's operational style and staffing design."

Japinga, an ordained minister in the Reformed Church in America, will begin his work with the presbytery in June and conclude his work at McCormick at the end of July. During the overlapping months, he will devote time to both the presbytery and McCormick, where he has served since 2008.

On serving within the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), Japinga recently wrote, "I believe my identity and effectiveness is best described not by the title or denomination but by my service. For 25-plus years, the church is where I have worked and taught, nurtured and comforted, strategized and discerned, in calm times and in maelstroms, along and with collaborative groups. ... I have lived, worshiped and practiced ministry amongst PC(USA) brothers and sisters for seven years now – still an immigrant, yes, but no longer a stranger in a foreign land."

Before McCormick, Japinga served 21 years on the denominational staff of the RCA. He was managing editor and then editor and publisher for the Church Herald, the RCA's denominational magazine.

He was the director of the RCA's congregational services unit and minister for education and faith development. He also served as executive coordinator for the office of general secretary in the RCA and taught as an adjunct instructor in communications at Hope College in Holland, Mich.

Anthony noted, "Jeff brings to our presbytery a depth of experience that includes work in a national church setting, ecumenical circles, communications and academics. His recent work at McCormack ... demonstrates his ability to assess opportunities for ministry, create vision, garner support, and carry it out. Additionally, supervising doctor of ministry students has given him insight into a variety of church contexts and creative ministries at a local level. We are grateful that Jeff sensed God calling him closer to the ministries of congregations and particularly to [this presbytery]."

Japinga has served in leadership roles in a number of ecumenical settings, including the Association of Presbyterian Church Educators and the National Council of Churches. He has edited numerous study guides and other educational resources, published in a variety of magazines and periodicals, and leads workshops in the areas of leadership, decision-making and Christian formation.

Japinga earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from the Medill School of Journalism at Northwestern University in Evanston, Ill., a master of divinity from New Brunswick (N.J.) Theological Seminary and a doctor of ministry from McCormick.